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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-080
Wednesday
26 April 1995

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-080 CONTENTS *26 April 1995*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Envoy: No New Ideas in Talks With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Palestinians, Israelis Begin Negotiations in Cairo *[MENA]* 1
  Teams Resume Talks *[MENA]* 1

Inter-Arab Affairs

Paper Links Libya, Iraq to Airplane Hardware Theft *[Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA 25 Apr]* 1

Islamic Affairs

OIC on Right of Libyan Pilgrims To Travel by Air *[JANA]* 2
Islamic-Christian Society Urges Boycott of 'Jerusalem 2000' *[MENA]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

Jihad Official Denies Suspension of Operations *[London AL-HAYAH 25 Apr]* 2
Islamic Jihad Denies Imminent Accord With PA *[Tehran International]* 3
Jihad, Hamas Dispute PA View of Negotiations *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Apr]* 3
Hamas Holds Israel Responsible for Killing Detainee *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 4
Police Release 9 Hamas, Islamic Jihad Activists *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
Jibril on Abu-Nidal, Beirut Marine Barracks Bombing *[London AL-WASAT 24-30 Apr]* 4
'Urayqat: No Progress Made in Cairo Talks *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Jordan's al-Mu'ashshir Visits Orient House *[Jerusalem International]* 6
  Remarks on Peace, East Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
Waqf Seeks To Uphold Muslim Rights at al-Aqsa *[THE JERUSALEM POST 26 Apr]* 7
Anti-Arab Accusations on Oklahoma Blast Assailed *[AL-QUDS 23 Apr]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Prime Minister on Political, Economic Situation *[Algiers Radio]* 9
Islamic Salvation Front Aide Karbani Interviewed 12
  Sees No Solution Other Than 'Force' *[London AL-HAYAH 21 Apr]* 12
  Views Leadership Structures, AIS *[London AL-HAYAH 22 Apr]* 13
Two 'Dangerous Terrorist Groups' Eliminated *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Security Forces Kill 18 'Terrorists,' Seize Weapons *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Energy Minister Discusses European Gas Project *[Algiers Radio]* 15

Egypt

Envoy Urges Arab-U.S. Cooperation Against Terrorism *[MENA]* 15
Source Denies U.S. Jamming of Radio Communications *[MENA]* 16
Columnist Criticizes U.S. Policy Toward Iran *[AL-AHRAM 18 Apr]* 16
'Special Nature' of U.S. Trade, Aid Ties Viewed *[London al-MAJALLAH 5 Feb]* 16
Sidqi: Trade Unaffected by Fluctuating Dollar *[MENA]* 18
'Pressure' Exerted on Syria in Peace Process Viewed *[AL-AHALI 19 Apr]* 19

Two Dead in Gun Battle in al-Minya *[AFP]* 19
'Terrorist' in Switzerland Issues Assassination List *[SABAH AL-KHAYR 20 Apr]* 20
Security, Political Conditions in South Discussed *[AL-AKHBAR 12 Feb]* 20

Sudan

Minister Disputes Uganda's Search for Arms *[SUNA]* 20
Government Accuses Uganda of Fomenting 'Upheavals' *[AFP]* 21

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Paper: Shiite Sentenced for Political Violence *[AFP]* 22

Kuwait

Minister, U.S. General Discuss Military Cooperation *[Kuwait Radio]* 22
Death Penalty Approved for Drug Dealers *[KUNA]* 22
Official: Increased Oil Refining Capacity Under Way *[KUNA]* 23

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd, Clinton on 'Issues of Common Interest' *[Riyadh Radio]* 23
Libyan Pilgrims Continue Arriving for Hajj *[SPA]* 23

United Arab Emirates

Trade Minister Confers With Belgian Counterpart *[WAKH]* 24

Yemen

Interior Minister Denies Rumors of Resignation *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Apr]* 24
Minister Views Border Talks, Economy, Coalition *[London AL-HAYAH 23 Apr]* 24
Interpol Help Sought in Extradition of Suspects *[Sanaa Radio]* 26

IRAQ

RCC General Amnesty Decree Pardons Prisoners *[INA]* 27
Turkish Spokesman, 'Sources' Cited on Withdrawal *[Baghdad Radio]* 27
Turkish Delegation Leader Urges End to Blockade *[INA]* 27
PUK Gaining Iran's Support by Suppressing IKDP *[Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS 19 Apr]* 27
Living Conditions 'Very Frightful;' Children Dying *[IRNA]* 28
Russian Energy Minister Continues Official Visit 28
  Meets Irrigation Minister on Ties *[INA]* 28
  Views Embargo With Trade Minister *[INA]* 28
  Signs Oil, Gas Agreement *[INA]* 28
  Expresses 'Satisfaction' With Accord *[INA]* 29
Cuban Official Hails Country's 'Steadfastness' *[INA]* 29
*Chief Financial Inspector on Government Operations *[ALIF BA' 1 Feb]* 29

ISRAEL

Lubrani Doubts Car Bomb Linked to Hizballah Infighting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
General Calls For Response to Hizballah Activity *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
Cabinet Meets on Evacuation of IDF Bases, Aid to PA *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Settlers, 'Peace Now' on IDF Redeployment Decision *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Al-Rujub's Hebron Offices Raided; 7 Detained *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Energy Minister on Natural Gas Project With Egypt *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Egyptian Arms Control Demands Reviewed *[HA'ARETZ 25 Apr]* 34

JORDAN

Foreign Minister Discusses Iraq, Other Issues *[AL-DUSTUR 22 Apr]* 36
Details of Jordan Rift Valley Symposium Reported *[JORDAN TIMES 25 Apr]* 36
  Prince Hasan's Remarks Reported *[Amman Radio]* 38
  Peres Says Trade Accord 'Almost Finalized' *[JORDAN TIMES 25 Apr]* 38
Crown Prince Receives U.S. Deputy Commerce Secretary *[Amman Radio]* 39
Jordanian American To Sue Media, Interrogators *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Apr]* 39
Crown Prince, Commander Receive Pakistani Military Team *[Amman TV]* 39
Crown Prince Receives European Troika Delegation *[Amman Radio]* 40
EC Exclusion from Amman Economic Summit Protested *[AL-ASWAQ 26 Apr]* 40

LEBANON

Hizballah Launches Suicide Attack on Israeli Position *[AFP]* 41
  'Large Number' of Casualties Reported *[Beirut Radio]* 41
  Ten Israelis, 20 Lebanese Said Wounded *[VOL]* 41
  Hizballah Radio Details Suicide Attack *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 41
Nasrallah Threatens To Attack Israeli Settlements *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 42
Israeli Reinforcements Reported in South *[Beirut Radio]* 42

SYRIA

Foreign Ministry: Turkey Withdrawing From Iraq *[SANA]* 43
Justice Minister Meets Iranian Prosecutor on Ties *[IRNA]* 43
Planning Minister, UK Counterpart Hold Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Commentary Questions Israel's Peace Intentions *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Daily Urges Clear Nonaligned Position on NPT *[Damascus Radio]* 44

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Taleban Reportedly Close Kabul-Qandahar Highway *[Message of Freedom]* 45
Hekmatyar Holds News Conferences on Regional Issues 45
  Urges Free Elections *[Message of Freedom]* 45
  Views Resolving Present 'Crisis' *[Message of Freedom]* 45
Mojadeddi: No Iranian Meddling in Internal Affairs *[IRNA]* 47

India

Rao Calls for 'Closer Partnership' With U.S. *[Delhi TV]* 47
Commentary Claims U.S. 'Often Condoned' Terrorism *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Reportage of Colombian Foreign Minister's Visit 48
  Urges Global Antidrug Effort *[Delhi Radio]* 48
  Confers With Rao *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Minister Concerned Over Pakistan's Naval Buildup *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Rao Comments on PRC Talks, Criticizes Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Minister Discusses Aircraft Deal for Air Force *[INDIAN EXPRESS 20 Apr]* 49

Iran

Intelligence Chief Reportedly Defects to U.S. *[SABAH AL-KHAYR 20 Apr]* 49
Reportage, Views on Kyrgyzstan Delegation's Visit 51
  Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive *[Tehran TV]* 51
  Interior Minister Meets Counterpart *[Tehran Radio]* 51
  Prime Minister Meets Rafsanjani *[Tehran TV]* 51
  Prime Minister Views Economic Ties *[IRNA]* 52
  Assembly Speaker Meets Majles Leader *[Tehran Radio]* 52
  Commentary on Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 52
U.S. Oil Company's Letter To Clinton Cited *[IRNA]* 53

U.S. Oil Firms React to Embargo *[IRNA]* 53
Turkey Reports Country's Support for Hizballah *[Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS 20 Apr]* 53
Effect of Hizballah Attack on Israel Considered *[Tehran Radio]* 54
*Human Rights Commission Chairman Interviewed *[London AL-MAJALLAH 5 Feb]* 55
Ministry Urged To Discuss Closure of Daily *[SALAM 16 Feb]* 56

Pakistan

Leghari Urges Action After Bhutto's U.S. Trip *[THE NEWS 26 Apr]* 57
Bangladesh Prime Minister Concludes Visit 58
  Joint Communique Issued *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
  Departs for Home *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Editorial Rejects Proposal for 'Sovereign' Kashmir *[NAWA-I-WAQT 25 Apr]* 58
National Lobby on Kashmir Launched in London *[Islamabad Radio]* 59

Sri Lanka

Continued Reportage of Breakdown With Rebels 59
  President: Peace Process Will Continue *[Colombo International]* 59
  Police Commandos Mount Offensive *[AFP]* 59
  Attacks on LTTE Positions Continue *[AFP]* 59
  Rebels Blamed for Disrupting Talks *[Colombo International]* 60

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Envoy: No New Ideas in Talks With Syria

TA2604052295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli and Syrian ambassadors in Washington conferred with Secretary of State Christopher last night. Ambassador Rabinovich told our correspondent Arye Golan that Amb. al-Mu'allim did not come up with any new ideas and that he did not present new positions either. The two ambassadors will continue to meet under the auspices of the U.S. Administration.

Palestinians, Israelis Begin Negotiations in Cairo

NC2504152995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1414 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)—A new round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations discussing Palestinian legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza began in Cairo today.

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority, leads the Palestinian delegation and Yo'el Singer, Israeli Foreign Ministry legal adviser, leads the Israeli delegation.

The talks are to focus on the nature, powers, and composition of the legislative council and the size of its composition, in addition to several still-unresolved issues like the participation of Jerusalem residents in these elections.

The heads of the two delegations met privately before the plenary session began.

Previously Palestinian sources played down the optimistic feelings surrounding this new round of negotiations. This optimism resulted from a remark by Palestinian delegation leader 'Urayqat, who said that progress had been made and that major points of disagreement have been narrowed to Israel's refusal to allow Jerusalem residents to run as candidates in the legislative council elections.

Teams Resume Talks

NC2604100995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0938 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations concerning the legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip resumed here this morning. The Palestinian side is led by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, while the Israeli side is led by Yo'il Singer, the Israeli Foreign Ministry's legal adviser.

The two sides will discuss several topics, including the number of Palestinian Council members, the qualifications required by the voters and candidates, and the international supervision of the elections. There are significant differences between the two sides, especially concerning the number of legislative council members and the participation of the Jerusalem population in the elections.

This round of negotiations is expected to end tonight.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Paper Links Libya, Iraq to Airplane Hardware Theft

BR2504141595 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 25 Apr 95 p 23

[Report by Gino Zasso: "International Intrigue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Olbia—The search for the men who stole 30 sophisticated American-made electronic devices (worth more than 5 billion lire) used in McDonnell-Douglas 82 and DC90 Super airplanes from the hangar/office of the Meridiana company at the Costa Smeralda airport has been extended to cover all of Italy. The theft took place during the night of Saturday [22 April] and early morning Sunday [23 April]. Also involved in the investigation are Interpol and our secret services, because the theft is taking on the features of a spy story.

The scenario of theft to order is the most likely. Many point the finger at countries affected by embargo; countries which have trouble finding supplies on the international market for raw materials, especially electronic components. This has set off a "red alert" to try to block off the stolen goods before they are able to cross the Mediterranean. The theft is being linked to a strange event that took place last month in the waters off the archipelago of Maddalena, when a Ukrainian patrol boat did not stop when told to halt by the carabinieri. After stopping over in Corsica, it continued on to Marseille, which was not the destination of a trip that was ostensibly aimed at unloading potatoes.

In the meantime new details have come to light about the theft. It was just after 0300 [0100 GMT] on Sunday, the night warehouse-keeper was rearranging the equipment. A short while earlier he had coffee with the police patrol on the inspection tour. Suddenly he found a fireman next to him who asked him: "Were you the one who activated the alarm system?," and pointed a pistol at his head. Then, three other "firemen" came in and headed toward the area where two technicians were working on an airplane. Caught by surprise, the two were tied up and gagged. The four attackers spoke with a marked Sardinian intonation, but not in Gallurian dialect.

One had the demeanor of a leader and the technical knowledge of an expert. "Where is the avionics," he asked, using expert's jargon for the spare-parts warehouse. They went straight to the shelves. He took a quick look and the asked about what he was looking for: "Where is the black box?," he asked again, anxiously. The flight-data recorder, which records every detail of the flight (and which is an orange metal container), was the first instrument put on the dolly ready to receive the stolen goods. Then the boss indicated, with precision, to his underlings what they still had to take: all the on-board computers they could find, even used ones, as well as a complete EFS, or electronic flight system, which is essential for all jets.

The equipment was then transported outside and loaded into a van belonging to the company taken from the parking lot. Transporting the equipment along with the warehouse keeper, the hardware pirates then left for the path that runs alongside the runway, broke the bolt on a service gate by repeatedly hitting it with the butt of a submachine gun, and headed up the eastern Sardinian highway. They travelled along the road for 10 km, transferred the precious cargo to another waiting vehicle, presumably with an accomplice, and left the Meridiana van and warehouse-keeper there.

It was approximately 0400, the alarm was raised one hour later, when the shift changed at the hangar, where the two bound technicians were found. At around 0800, at the junction for the Costa Dorata, a farmer spotted surgical gloves and a ski-mask in the underbrush. He thought it was a kidnapping attempt and raised the alarm. The police arrived and discovered nearby the van used to carry the stolen goods and inside, bound and gagged, the kidnapped warehouse-keeper.

Those UN "Blows" Against al-Qadhdhafi and Saddam Husayn

Suspect number one could be al-Qadhdhafi's Libya which, due to the Lockerbie bombing and Tripoli's reluctance to cooperate in the investigation, was subjected to an embargo decreed by the United Nations. This is a military and trade embargo which also affects air links to Libya. In recent days al-Qadhdhafi has managed to wring out an exception to the wall of sanctions so that he can fly his pilgrims to Mecca. This could be an opening that Tripoli hopes to use to reactivate its own communications.

The second country on the list of suspects is Saddam Husayn's Iraq, a country besieged by sanctions since its invasion of Kuwait. Over the years the regime has sought to get around the embargo in order to acquire sophisticated technology.

The most probable scenario is still that it was international traffickers who will then resell this "precious" hardware via three-way deals and exchanges involving other prohibited equipment.

Islamic Affairs

OIC on Right of Libyan Pilgrims To Travel by Air

LD2004165295 Tripoli JANA in English 1440 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, al Tayr 20 [April], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Organisation of Islamic Conference [OIC] in Jeddah issued a statement yesterday confirming the right of Libyan-Arab pilgrims to fly directly from Libya.

The OIC said in its statement that it is following the issue of the Libyan Arab airliner closely and confirmed that Libyan Arab pilgrims have the right to fly directly from Libya to the holy land by air to avoid any suffering or hardships incurred by travelling through other countries.

The OIC said it had been seeking over the past few years to urge the United Nations to exempt the pilgrims from the unfair sanctions imposed on Libya and was awaiting the lifting of the sanctions in a short time.

Islamic-Christian Society Urges Boycott of 'Jerusalem 2000'

NC2204170595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—The Islamic Christian Society of the World Islamic Council for Call and Relief [WICCR] has called for boycotting the "Jerusalem 2000" festival, which is to be held in Jerusalem in September to celebrate the alleged third millennium of David's founding of the city of Jerusalem.

In a statement issued in Cairo today, the society called on the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Arab League, and the WICCR to coordinate efforts, unite Arab and Islamic stances, and conduct urgent contacts with the various states and organizations to reject that festival and refrain from taking part in it.

In its statement, the society praised the Vatican's rejection of the festival and denounced the Israeli intention and insistence on organizing the festival which, according to the society, seeks to mislead world public opinion and win political support for Israel's position on Jerusalem through the falsification of the Holy City's history, culture, and Arabism.

The WICCR embraces all humanitarian relief establishments in the Islamic world. It is chaired by al-Azhar Rector Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad al-Haqq.

Palestinian Affairs

Jihad Official Denies Suspension of Operations

MM2504155895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Apr 95 p 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Jihad Official Denies Suspension of Operations Against Israel in Autonomy Areas"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus—The Islamic Jihad Movement, led by Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, has denied willingness to suspend military operations against Israelis in the Gaza Strip for a certain period of time "to give the expansion of autonomy a chance." It reaffirmed its intention "to continue the jihad and to deal concentrated military blows in the autonomy areas."

An Islamic Jihad official told AL-HAYAH in Damascus that the talk of a suspension of military operations in the [Gaza] Strip "is highly exaggerated," but he did speak of meetings between the movement, its representative in Gaza Nafidh 'Azzam, and the Palestinian Authority [PA], "ordinary meetings which occur after every deterioration and tension between the two sides. Their aim is to ease the tension and prevent inter-Palestinian clashes." He added that "the current dialogue is not political but rather practical, aimed at solving some field problems."

The official reaffirmed "our refusal to lay down our arms and stop the jihad so long as there are Israeli soldiers, occupation, settlements, and Israeli security centers. The operations will stop when the Israelis withdraw." He did not rule out the possibility of "suicide operations by a Jihad member at any moment in Gaza."

The official said that there was "extreme tension" with the autonomy authorities in Gaza because of (the Authority's) "decision to take away the arms of which we are proud." He stressed that the "dialogue" carried out by the movement's leaders at home with the PA "is not at the expense of our firm principles and the Islamic Jihad programs which we insist upon."

He pointed out that "in their dialogue, our representatives insist on the following: the right to mobilize the Palestinian masses politically and informationally on the grounds that the occupation still exists (in Gaza and elsewhere); to work by every means to prevent Palestinian infighting or conflict with the Authority, because that is what Israel wants; to maintain the pace of the intifadah and preserve the civilian institutions won by the Palestinian people as one of their inalienable civil rights; to form committees to prevent the Authority from continuing to ban freedom of expression or any of the rights exercised under the occupation; to regard military action as sacred and proceed with it so long as there is Israeli occupation."

The Palestinian official denied that the Islamic Jihad is trying to "embarrass" President Yasir 'Arafat. "We are exercising our rights against an agreement concluded behind our backs." He repeated that the movement is trying to show "the disadvantages of the agreement and to tell the Authority that its continued implementation will only make the situation worse. Anyone working for the implementation of the agreement is actually working toward more deterioration." [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Denies Imminent Accord With PA

NC2504195195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has denied reports of an imminent agreement between the movement and the 'Arafat authority. Our correspondent in Beirut has more details:

[Begin Muhammad Bishkar recording] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine today denied reports about an imminent political agreement between the movement and the Palestinian self-rule authority in Gaza.

In an exclusive statement to our office in Beirut, Abu-Ahmad 'Isam, official in charge of foreign relations in the movement, said these reports are baseless. He added that these reports are mere wishes by the authority to discredit the movement and divide the opposition ranks by implying that the movement will sign an agreement without the participation of other parties.

He added that the contacts between representatives of the Islamic Jihad Movement and the Palestinian Authority [PA] are being held through some independent Palestinian figures to ease tension, prevent clashes, and free detainees. But, he noted, the Authority's conditions are block these goals.

This Islamic Jihad Movement condition is consistent with the announcement by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] sources today that contacts with the Palestinian Authority have not yielded any results because of the Authority's conditions. These conditions, he said, demand a halt to operations against the occupation and the collection of the opposition's weapons.

In return, the sources said, Hamas set four conditions: to stop arrests and release detainees, dissolve the state security court and cancel its rulings, rescind the decision to collect weapons, and to form neutral committees to investigate incidents that took place in the self-rule areas.

It was noticed that the Jihad and Hamas sources stressed that their approval to hold talks with the Palestinian Authority does not mean a change in the firm position to reject the Oslo Accord and to insist on pursuing military action against the occupation. [end recording]

Jihad, Hamas Dispute PA View of Negotiations

MM2604085595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih and Mahmud Abu-'Id: "Authority: We Have Reached An Agreement With Jihad Movement; Opposition: We Have Reached No Results"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, occupied Jerusalem, Gaza, Information Services Center—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has explored the opinions of the Palestinian National Authority, the opposition, and independents vis-a-vis the Palestinian dialogues aimed at bringing an end to the tension in the Gaza Strip and halting the activities against the Israelis, even for a specific period. In this context al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Authority [PA], stressed that an agreement has been reached an agreement on broad outlines with the

Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine to calm the situation in the Gaza Strip and put an end to the attacks on the Israelis. However, he said that the same progress has not been made in the talks with Hamas.

On the clauses of this agreement 'Abd-al-Rahim told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "We have agreed to eliminate the pretexts Israel is using to hamper the implementation of the second part of the Oslo agreement, and also to safeguard the Palestinian people's higher national interests and to suspend the Authority's measures and release the detainees." However, he stressed that the arrests question will not include those involved in bombing operations.

Commenting on a statement issued in Beirut by Sayyid Barakah, a Jihad leader, who said, "we in the Islamic Jihad Movement believe that there is no room at all for concluding any agreement with that Authority," 'Abd-al-Rahim said: The important thing is that nothing has been issued by Jihad in Damascus, specifically by its secretary general, Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

'Abd-al-Rahim revealed names of the members of the Jihad negotiating delegation. They are Ibrahim al-Najjar, Nafidh Ibrahim, and Khadr 'Abbas. He said that Muhammad al-Hindi, whom the Authority released yesterday, will join these negotiations, and so will Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami when he is released, as nothing has been proved against him so far.

Meanwhile a PA source has attributed the failure to reach an agreement with Hamas to the existence of disagreements among its leaders. The source said, "we were about to reach an agreement but they backtracked at the last moment because of the disagreement between hardliners and moderates."

But Hamas leaders inside and abroad deny the existence of such a disagreement, which they say is merely a baseless rumor and "what the spiteful would wish to be true."

For its part, the Islamic Jihad Movement told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT through an element close to it that the meeting held the day before yesterday produced no results and no agreement was reached on any issue. 'Ala' al-Saftawi added that matters are frozen. However, outstanding issues have been discussed in depth. He also said that the three-member Jihad delegation reiterated in front of the Authority's delegation the demand for the release of all prisoners from Jihad and the Islamic movement in general, the suspension of the continuing arrest operations, and the abolition of the decisions of the state security court. He added that unless these demands are met the atmosphere in Gaza will remain cloudy. It is worth mentioning that Hamas too submitted these demands to the Authority. Al-Saftawi said that the Authority's delegation promised at the meeting to implement these demands within the next two days and that Jihad would be notified of the outcome at another meeting to be held within days.

Shaykh Sayyid Abu-Musamih, member of the Hamas negotiating delegation, has said that "the meetings with the Authority produced no developments. They were merely aimed at containing matters lest they develop into a civil war, since conditions here are serious and the factors of tension still exist, the most recent of which are the sentences issued by the state security court. Abu-Musamih stressed that Hamas continues to adhere to its constants and basic principles." He also said: "The factors causing tension—primarily the Israeli occupation—must be eliminated." [passage omitted]

Hamas Holds Israel Responsible for Killing Detainee

JN2504181795 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement under the headline "The Zionist Enemy Continues its arrogant Policy of Executing and Assassinating Detainees." The statement says: Terrorist Rabin's cliques are continuing their ugly, detestable crimes against our peaceful sons and our jailed heroes. The Zionist enemy's forces are continuing the policy of oppression and injustice by detaining thousands of our sons in violation of all international norms and charters.

The statement adds: After terrorist Rabin has allowed the killers and cliques of the Shin Bet to use psychological and physical torture while questioning the mujahidin of our people, who are doing their utmost to defend their rights, land, honor, and sanctities and who have faith in the justice of their cause, these criminal cliques killed martyr 'Abd-al-Samad Hurayzat while they were questioning him in the al-Maskubiyah prison.

Concluding, the Islamic Resistance Movement stressed that the continued Zionist crimes against our people and their mujahidin cannot harm our determination to continue our battle against the Zionist enemy, nor can they stop our loyalty to the blood of our righteous martyrs which will not be shed in vain.

Police Release 9 Hamas, Islamic Jihad Activists

TA2604091195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Police has released another nine Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists detained in the wake of the recent attacks in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that approximately 90 activists belonging to these organizations remain in detention.

Jibril on Abu-Nidal, Beirut Marine Barracks Bombing

JN2504160595 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 24-30 Apr 95 pp 32-37

["Last part" of interview with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, by Ghassan Sharbal in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Sharbal] What is your relationship with Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]?

[Jibril] I know him. That is all.

[Sharbal] Is there no cooperation between you?

[Jibril] No. None at all. We entrenched their presence in Lebanon and then they turned into a combat organization. In the stage that followed 1982, we offered them weapons and logistical support. We also protected them from 'Arafat and clashed with 'Arafat because we sought to allow them to become an organization, just like the other organizations.

[Sharbal] Apparently, Abu-Nidal has suspended all his operations?

[Jibril] I don't know, because we haven't had any contact for a long time. It is no secret that we have often criticized him in our meetings on account of some individual actions that took place, such as the random executions. We used to encourage them to fight the Israelis the way we used to fight the Israelis. [passage omitted]

[Sharbal] Did you detonate a car bomb in the eastern region of Beirut?

[Jibril] To be precise, we did not kill a single Christian because of his identity throughout the civil war. One of our young people who was in charge of al-Shiyyah region killed a person because of his identity and he was arrested and later he got killed. Imagine that during the hotel battle, I captured a whole group of them, along with snipers, and handed them over to Rimon Iddih, who is still alive.

[Sharbal] So you are saying that you had nothing to do with other assassinations?

[Jibril] Absolutely not. We never thought about this because this was not part of our plan.

[Sharbal] Did you have anything to do with the bombing of the Marine headquarters?

[Jibril] No. I was surprised to hear the news on the radio, just like any other citizen. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat: No Progress Made in Cairo Talks

JN2604084995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Dr. 'Urayqat, good morning.

['Urayqat] Good morning.

[Correspondent] Yesterday, a new round of Palestinian-Israeli talks on election commenced. Was any progress made?

['Urayqat] Unfortunately, no.

[Correspondent] Then, are there still deep-seated differences?

['Urayqat] Issues have been discussed and many joint formulas in many areas worked out. We think we can easily finalize all the elements regarding the elections that should be included in the phased agreement. However, it seems there are key outstanding issues which should be discussed, like the participation of Jerusalem's residents [in elections] and the council. There are still some outstanding issues. Negotiations are locked in a vicious circle.

[Correspondent] This completely contradicts statements by the Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman that talks have reached a very advanced phase and that there are only a few outstanding issues, like the manner in which voter lists will be prepared. Even the spokesman of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo said everything is going as agreed and that there are no problems.

['Urayqat] In fact, regarding technical issues like preparing the voter list—as you know these are Palestinian elections—we have received from the Israeli side 1,072,000 names of citizens in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, who are 17 years old and above. On Friday, we will start training six thousand teachers on conducting a census and verifying and updating voter lists. These are domestic issues. We discussed them today, although they were discussed in the past. We expect this session to focus on important issues so we can overcome controversial issues and reach an agreement. However, as I said, we are locked in an almost vicious circle.

[Correspondent] It seems that you were optimistic yesterday morning. You said it was about time to delve into the major issue.

['Urayqat] I still say this; I have been saying this for some time. I believe the main issue that should be addressed is the participation of Jerusalem's residents. As you know, this participation involves voting, candidacy, and ballot boxes. According to the electoral system, eight seats will be allocated for the Jerusalem constituency. These are Palestinian elections. In these talks we are abiding by the Declaration of Principles agreement. As I said, this issue is not restricted to these technical aspects or to what should or should not be negotiated. However, it seems a certain trend inside Israeli decision-making quarters is still hesitating to realize the required achievements, especially since June is the deadline. It seems that shortly we will start hearing that there are no sacred dates.

[Correspondent] As usual.

['Urayqat] It seems so.

[Correspondent] Will the Higher Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee meeting on 17 May have any real importance, given this situation?

['Urayqat] There is no doubt that the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee is the party to which outstanding issues are referred. But, you know, outstanding issues now make up a very long list. These issues include the prisoners issue, which has been outstanding for more than nine months, safe passages, entry of goods, continuation of settlement activity, confiscation of lands, and killing squads that randomly kill our people in the streets. These practices, coupled with procrastination in negotiations, indicate that this government does not intend to do what it declares in English it will do, because totally different instructions are given in Hebrew.

[Correspondent] Dr. 'Urayqat, what about the redeployment of Israeli troops outside populous areas?

['Urayqat] In fact, when we say there is a deadline ending in June we refer to the phased agreement, which includes the redeployment of Israeli troops outside the populous areas in the West Bank, the elections, revision of laws, transfer of powers, and security and economic issues. We are not here to work out new agreements; there is an agreement that was already signed. What we are seeking now is to work out a mechanism for implementing the agreement.

[Correspondent] Are we going to remain locked in this vicious circle and realize no progress?

['Urayqat] I would not say that. I do not want to foretell events. We are accustomed to addressing our people frankly. We relay to our people what happened. However, this does not mean that we are facing a dead end, although negotiations are difficult and intricate. I believe it is about time for this issue to be resolved. The whole world knows the extent of Israeli procrastination, and not just on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

[Correspondent] Given this transparency in our relationship with our Palestinian people, is it true, as some press reports say, that there are secret contacts on the redeployment of Israeli troops under the supervision of President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin?

['Urayqat] An agreement regarding redeployment was signed four months ago. This agreement was announced and it provides for contacts between His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin. Some meetings were held. However, we should not be so optimistic; we should not say how far these contacts have gone. What we should focus on now is drafting final formulas of the phased agreement within a period not exceeding June.

[Correspondent] Then if we were to run a banner headline in today's newspaper it would read: Palestinian-Israeli talks failed to make any progress yesterday.

['Urayqat] I agree with you and would say that talks are at a standstill.

[Correspondent] Thank you Dr. 'Urayqat.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

Jordan's al-Mu'ashshir Visits Orient House

JN2504162595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1455 GMT 25 Apr 95

[Report by correspondent Ahmad 'Ubaydat; italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian Ambassador to Israel Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir visited Orient House this afternoon and met with Faysal al-Husayni and a number of Palestinian figures led by Sari Nusaybah and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi.

Following his meeting with al-Husayni, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir spoke to journalists, saying:

I am very glad to visit brother Faysal and the other members of the Palestinian delegation at a dear Palestinian house, the Orient House. I am also glad to visit the Arab city of Jerusalem. As you know, our position concerning this city is clear, which is that it is an inseparable part of occupied Arab territories that should return to Arab sovereignty. This is a very happy day. We spoke about many issues dealing with the peace process. I always look forward to exchanging views on various issues that concern the two sides.

I asked Dr. al-Mu'ashshir: Was there coordination with the Israeli Foreign Ministry on this visit? He replied:

In fact, I am not an official envoy to the West Bank and Gaza, but this is a fraternal visit, and I do not see any reason for any clamor to be made on this issue. We are proud to visit Arab Jerusalem and various parts of the West Bank and to consult with our Palestinian brothers on various issues.

Answering a question on Jordan's position on the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said:

Jordan's position on the shrines is clear and frank. The disagreement was overcome a long time ago. Jordan has openly declared that when Arab sovereignty is restored by the Palestinian side, the religious sovereignty will also be for the Palestinian side, and there is no problem concerning this issue.

As for Faysal al-Husayni, he spoke about the visit and the most important issues that were discussed with al-Mu'ashshir, saying:

In fact, I was very pleased by this visit, and we hope that other visits will be made in the future. The issues that were discussed deal with the peace process and the negotiations.

Following the meeting, al-Husayni and Dr. al-Mu'ashshir walked from Orient House to the National Hotel in east Jerusalem to attend a lunch banquet held in honor of al-Mu'ashshir.

Remarks on Peace, East Jerusalem

TA2504161995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan's Ambassador Marwan al-Mu'ashshir this afternoon met at Orient House in East Jerusalem with Palestinian officials. This was his first visit to the Orient House since arriving in Israel as ambassador. Earlier in the day, al-Mu'ashshir addressed the Foreign Press Association in Tel Aviv. The Jordanian ambassador said that since the signing of a peace treaty with Israel, the kingdom has not experienced the economic benefits it had anticipated.

[Begin al-Mu'ashshir recording] This peace is not conditional in the sense that as I said, we did sign a peace treaty with Israel and we are fully committed to the implementation of this treaty. However, peace between people cannot be effected by an administrative order or even by a peace treaty. It requires much more than a piece of paper. It requires relations between people, and it requires people to be convinced that these relations are for their benefit and for the benefit of the region; and in order to do that we have to transform this peace. We have to trickle it down from one between governments to one between people. Can it break down? I hope not, but this does not depend only on Jordan and Israel. It really depends on the whole region, on our ability to effect as I said successful conclusion of agreements on all other fronts, because, as you are well aware, the core conflict remains unresolved. And the core conflict is not the Jordanian-Israeli dimension of the conflict but rather the Palestinian-Israeli dimension. [end recording]

Al-Mu'ashshir said that Jordan and Israel still did not agree on the issue of Jerusalem. This is what the ambassador had to say on the subject just prior to his visit to Orient House.

[Begin al-Mu'ashshir recording] I do not find it necessary to visit the Orient House. I find it natural. And I am going to do that right after this lecture as a matter of fact. As you know, Jordan's position on Jerusalem has not changed because of the peace treaty, and it is not going to change. East Jerusalem is, as far as Jordan is concerned, part of the occupied Arab territories in 1967. We believe that any solution has to bring back Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty. And when I visit Arab Jerusalem I do so as a natural thing and not as something that I feel compelled to do to satisfy anybody. I think it is very important in our relations with Israel to be frank and to acknowledge that because we signed a peace treaty does not mean we do not differ on other issues. And indeed we differ greatly over Jerusalem. We are going to be frank about it and open about it. We are not going to sweep things under the rug. We differ with Israel over Jerusalem, and we will let that be known, not in a confrontational manner, but in a way that would hopefully bridge the gap in the future. We have not been able to do that so far. [end recording]

Waqf Seeks To Uphold Muslim Rights at al-Aqsa

TA2604104095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jewish worship on the Temple Mount will not be tolerated, Moslem leaders in Jerusalem declared yesterday at an emergency meeting, called in response to recent attempts by Jews to pray there.

"The entire area is a mosque, and according to Islamic law it is forbidden for non-Moslems to pray at a mosque," said Waqf director 'Adnan al-Husayni.

Al-Husayni said that what Jews call the Temple Mount, is for Moslems al-Aqsa Mosque, defined as both the mosque structure, and the walled area around it. "If Israel intends to change its policy, and begin allowing Jews to pray at al-Aqsa, it will find itself up against the entire Islamic world," al-Husayni told the POST.

Since 1967 Israel has maintained a policy of permitting only Moslem worship at the Temple Mount, on grounds that allowing Jews to worship there would spark unrest.

That policy has been challenged recently by a new group, Hay Veqayam, which periodically sends members to the Temple Mount to pray, often clashing with police and Waqf guards.

The emergency meeting of members of the Higher Islamic Council was called after the latest attempt on Sunday by the group to pray on the Temple Mount. The council issued a statement calling for international intervention to "uphold the rights of Moslems at al-Aqsa," and police to take tougher action.

Anti-Arab Accusations on Oklahoma Blast Assailed

TA2504165695 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Apr 95 p 11

[Editorial: "The Oklahoma Incident and the Unjust Campaign Against the Arabs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the aftermath of the destructive explosion in a government building in Oklahoma City, many officials and media figures in the United States in particular, as well as in western and other countries, hastily—without even waiting for the results of the initial investigations—placed the responsibility for the blast on organizations and individuals affiliated with Islam or with the Arabs. That is not surprising in light of the intensive media campaign—targeted against the Arab and Islamic worlds—in the Western and U.S. media in recent years. This biased campaign designated the Arab and Islamic worlds as the successors to the state of hostility and war whose banner was borne by the former Soviet Union before its collapse.

Now, the facts are slowly becoming evident. Official U.S. sources have announced that the Oklahoma City explosion was planned and implemented by extremist U.S. groups and that the entire incident is a purely internal U.S. affair. Yet these sources ignored the damage inflicted on the Arabs and Muslims in general as a result of the suspicion and accusations leveled at them without any proof even before the investigation about the criminal explosion had been launched.

The most serious damage has been inflicted on the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic communities in the United States, some of whose sons were subjected to attacks. Moreover, these communities have received hundreds of threats of reprisal, bearing in mind that since the Gulf war they have been living in a bad psychological situation and that for two or more years they have been subjected to continuous investigation under the pretext of the existence of fundamentalist activities hostile to the United States.

Undoubtedly, the emergence of the facts regarding the Oklahoma terrorist incident have allowed the American Arab community to breathe a sigh of relief after numerous biased parties have tried to attach the accusation and responsibility for the blast to this community or to one of the Arab or Islamic organizations. Will this tragic incident serve as a lesson to the media and official levels in the United States and the West to be considerate and rational in their prejudice, and will it serve as an attempt to change the dark and terrifying picture of the Arabs and Muslims that they unjustly seek to draw?

The Arab and Islamic heritage has no connection at all with violence, terrorism, and the killing of innocent people. Undoubtedly, the realization of this fact will prevent the Arab and U.S. sides from entering into cycles of suspicion and fabricated confrontations which under no circumstances serve the interest of either side.

Algeria

Prime Minister on Political, Economic Situation

LD2504190895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1222 GMT 25 Apr 95

[Speech by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi at opening of the third plenary session of the Economic and Social Council in Algiers on 25 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May God's prayers and peace be upon the noblest of all his messengers.

Mr. chairman, chairman of the Transitional National Council [TNC], esteemed guests, members of the government, ladies and gentlemen: May God's peace, prayers and benediction be upon you.

We are meeting here today a year after the formation of the government of the transitional period to review our initiatives and our successes as well as our failures.

We would like, however, to take this opportunity, given to us by the third plenary session of the Economic and Social Council, to send a dual message. It is a message to our people and, at the same time it is a message to the enemies of our people.

And it is also symbolic to send such a dual message from this platform where we are all meeting—members of the government, social and economic partners and national cadres—to ponder how best to coordinate our joint efforts to secure a better future for our country.

To begin with, it is a message of hope. It is a pledge to our people that its suffering will never be a waste of time. And it is a message that also conveys the fact that our country is alright and, is making progress toward a better life in the economic, social, and cultural fields, despite all the obstacles.

And it is, furthermore, a message that conveys the unity and the solidarity of the men and women whom fate has entrusted to lead today's Algeria. It is a message to their brothers and sisters of all social strata everywhere in our beloved Algeria which announces publicly to them on this spring day that a newly born Algeria will live, despite all the difficulties, free, independent, and prosperous. [applause]

It will be a new Algeria, an Algeria by all Algerians and for all Algerians who are here today inside the country. This is a message of confidence, strength, and of meeting the challenge against all reactionary currents both inside and outside the country. This is a message to those who have banked on enslaving this brave people, to those who have torn up the national banner, the flag of the valiant National Liberation Army, to all those who have desecrated the tombs of martyrs [applause], to all those who have assassinated the men of knowledge and culture, to those who have cut the throats of women and children, to the traitors and their allies in the east and west, to the forces that have made the wrong calculations, to the states that have had doubts about the deep-rooted courage of the descendants of Jugurtha [Berber chief who fought against the Romans], to all those who have banked on the demise of Algeria; this message is simple, clear, and loud like a gunshot: You have lost, and you were bound to lose. We are meeting here today because the people is with us, and because we are with the people. How can we be otherwise? We are here because we are like our people, we are the sons of this people. We are resisting with patience as God has taught us. [passage omitted]

We are here to speak with pride and anger, but without rancor because we are Muslims, the creatures of God. [passage omitted]

Mr. chairman, ladies and gentlemen: When we submitted the transitional phase program to the TNC, we asked to be appraised not only on the basis of our intentions but more particularly on the basis of our actions on the ground. We pointed out the difficulties and other obstacles awaiting us on the way we had chosen to be at the service of our homeland, that of action and self-denial. We committed ourselves not to be sidetracked in sterile political discussions or in adventurous theoretical formulas. It is up to public opinion to judge whether we have been true to our commitments for this year at least.

Despite all this, I will leave some questions open: Could we not consider that the option of being at the service of the homeland quietly and without any politicking is in itself a way of adopting a political stance? Could we not consider that favoring Algeria's interest and situation above any other interest is a way of choosing one's camp? Could we not consider that an activist is someone who is fighting so that Algeria remains economically strong and socially cohesive?

What matters for the citizens, particularly the workers and all those who use their muscles and sweat for Algeria, is to know whether the economic situation will improve, whether prices will stabilize, whether the purchasing power will increase, whether unemployment will decrease, whether there is hope for a big number of houses and means of transportation, and whether there is more security for their families and children.

What matters for the citizens is to know when terrorism will stop for good, when Algeria will return to its old self, a proud, respected and respectable country. A country whose citizens are not humiliated in foreign consulates or on countries' borders.

What matters for our young people is to know when they will be able to pin hopes once again on this land, to have confidence in a real future with a job, an income and a purchasing power to recover human dignity, to be in charge of their destiny, and dream of projects for a dignified life.

What concerns the Algerians, men and women, is to know when life will be delightful in Algeria, when culture will develop freely, when art will flourish continuously, and when contemptuousness and bureaucracy will disappear forever. This is what concerns our people more than speeches and demagogy.

And if I have to give an answer today to these questions, then this answer would be in the form of a short sentence: We have begun to do it, we have begun to do it. This government has begun with the means available to it and in the political and security situation which you are aware of and in a way which might seem small. However, it has begun building a better Algeria step by step. It will continue its work for the sake of the country until the end of its transitional period and until the last day with the firm belief that its work will not be wasted and that Algeria has started, irrevocably, its way out of the crisis.

Nonetheless, it is impossible for any government in the world, on its own, to get its people out of backwardness. The mobilization of everyone around noble and clear objectives is the only way to lift states to the level of nations.

I beg your permission to mention a man from abroad. He was John Kennedy, who, at his presidential address, told his people; Do not say what can America offer us but say what can we offer America. Bearing in mind that America in the sixties was strong and prosperous.

We have to consider today a similar appeal; Algeria is in need of us, what can we offer her? We as members of government, cadres, workers, peasants and ordinary citezens, are all concerned by this appeal. Algeria is in need of us, what can we offer her?

Mr. chairman, ladies and gentlemen: We are approaching a decisive event for the destiny of our nation. In the next few months, the Algerian people will be invited to express its opinion and to choose, to express its opinion loudly and strongly to silence the voices of dissension and division, to choose clearly and silence those who have appointed themselves as its spokesmen. It is a unique and historic opportunity available to Algerian men and women to break the vicious circle in which they were placed by the professionals of political charlatanism, to break the vicious circle where our youths are being killed and our holy Islamic religion is being misrepresented, to break the vicious circle of futile debates and foreign interference. It is a unique historic opportunity available for Algerian men and women to initiate the great break with the regime of bankrupcy, mediocrity, demagogy, and bureaucracy, the regime where we are meant to remain by those who created and nurtured it, those who today pretend to denounce it, as if, with a few words and sentences, they can obliterate 30 years of lies, demagogy and misrepresentation of national values, of which neither history, nor culture, and not even our Islamic religion have been exempted.

Men and women must realize the challenges of the presidential elections, because not only are there adventurers inside the country who are bent on destabilizing the latter, but there are also other adventurers lying in wait behind whom centers of foreign interests are hidden. Be vigilant against carelessness and naivety. States are essentially founded on egoism, and our country is rich, rich with oil and gas, rich with its human resources, and distinguished with its geo-strategic position. These are the things that have always aroused greedy ambitions. Is it for this that we are supposed not to have a national, modern, and strong Algeria? Are these the reasons that will be motivating certain circles, including Algerian circles, to accept the eruption of a permanent civil war at any cost and by means of various maneuvers and conspiracies, a war that will exhaust the national unity and the territorial integrity of Algeria, and will bring this people to its knees, this people that refuses to prostrate itself to any force?

Those who have rejected holding the [presidential] elections, claiming lack of security as a pretext, are the very people who have refused to condemn the killers of women and children. But why are these people reluctant to nominate themselves as potential candidates for the election? Because they know they stand no chance of winning the vote of the people.

Anyway, it is inconceivable that Algerians will vote for people who do not know any language save the language of hatred and exclusion and who have become the partners, through their silence and support, of those who ordered the killing of innocent citizens, permitted marriages of convenience and the sabotage of schools. These people are aware that they cannot deceive the people a second time. Hence they have opted to reject elections because not only they cannot deceive the people but also they cannot even convince those who have been behind them of the viability of their concocted plans and work tirelessly for the promotion of violence, hoping for further social strife.

Nonetheless, all their maneuvers will be to no avail. Their desperate maneuvers will falter in the face of the firmness and the determination of the united security forces, i.e. soldiers, gendarmes, police and municipal guards. These forces, which have been drawn from our courageous and zealous youth, will not hesitate to pursue and annihilate the enemies of the nation.

They will, furthermore, be fruitless maneuvers in the face of the steadfastness of the people, i.e. workers, traders, teachers, journalists, and farmers, who have rejected terrorism and fought it with determination, insisting that they should lead a normal life regardless of the cost.

They will also be fruitless maneuvers in the face of the courage of the nation's cadres, i.e. the ministers, the governors, managers, elected and appointed mayors and civil servants even if that meant jeopardizing their own lives. They will be also fruitless maneuvers in the face of the will of our mothers, sisters, daughters, and wives who have rejected slavery, oppression, and the yoke. The maneuvers of those people will be fruitless and they know it.

Mr. chairman, ladies and gentlemen: The time is ripe for the dynamic forces in the country to speak loudly. The political parties are not the only ones who decide the destiny of the country, and they will not be the only ones to decide this destiny. Cadres and workers must have their say and make their voices heard. Being a scapegoat is not a characteristic of the workers and no political leader has the right to ignore their views and their importance. Cadres and workers have given the proof with their conduct, wisdom, and the level of their patriotic awareness that they are fully aware of the higher interest of the nation and that they are committed to partisan neutrality. However, they cannot and will not be neutral when it is question of the life of the nation and the state. Let all know this and let all reflect on this.

Mr. chairman, members of the Government, ladies and gentlemen: Speaking at the opening session of the National Economic and Social Council is undoubtedly an important opportunity for the head of the government especially since this session is taking place on the eve of international labor day. Second: The agenda of this session includes issues of decisive importance directly related to the national policy which must be implemented to secure the country's progress and its rapid and durable stability on the political, economic, and social levels.

Mr. chairman: I do know, for having personally followed up the intensified activities of your honorable institution, that these endeavors, which are submitted to you and which have a decisive importance, have your extreme attention and were subjected to continuous efforts exerted in very difficult working conditions. Allow me here to take this opportunity to recall openly that many important and complex issues submitted to the National Economic and Social Council have been given answers which illustrate the seriousness, competence, and far-sightedness of your honorable institution. [passage omitted]

At this stage, our country is facing up to objective historic problems linked to the move to democracy and the market economy. On the economic level, and given the great challenges that must be met, the required rectifications and the expected growth targets, we see that the transitional period program which the government has begun to carry out is very important. It constitutes a genuine economic combat that our country must win at the end of this second millennium. This conomic combat concerns all Algerians and, therefore, e future of our country depends on it. Hopes to see our untry get out of the crisis will be all the more realistic [illegible] e they will be strengthened not only by a social ract [between government, employers, and trade s], but also with a real Algerian nationalism con- [illegible] applause], a pact that all the social and economic [illegible] of the country should join. [passage omitted]

Algeria has met with great understanding and support on the part of all the economic and monetary partners during the negotiations on the third agreement on facilities for extended credit from the IMF. This agreement remains necessary and inevitable so as to ease and reduce the burden of the foreign financial pressure. Actually, everybody agrees that the revival of economic activity remains the most guaranteed means of effectively combating the consequences of economic and social exclusion and of ensuring a continuous meeting of population's essential needs especially in the vital spheres of work, housing, and health.

This necessary and vital revival depends in a large extent, as you know, on easing the burden of foreign financial pressure and on improving the major balances of our economy in general. Although this pressure has been eased to a large extent, thanks to the program of economic stability underpinned by the IMF agreement, nevertheless, the efforts already begun with this international financial institution should be supported by the third agreement of the extended financial facilities. [passage omitted

During the said period, the question in fact relates to the achievement of a total departure from the old economic system and involving the national economy once and for all within the world rules that govern the market.

I have no doubt that you are aware of the significance of the stakes and the positive effects of this agreement on the stability of the country which is currently passing through difficult times. This is because its population, consisted basically of youth, are today a prey to economic exclusion and unemployment. In fact, this segment of the youth, which has been weakened by circumstances and tensions, has become exposed to the negative influences of the circles of darkness and the reactionaries which openly work against progress, modernization, tolerance, the right to choose, and even the right to live. [passage omitted]

Finally, I believe I can say that it is within the reach of Algerians to overcome the current difficulties the country is passing through and which do not spare any social strata, no matter how acute these difficulties may be. For this reason, the current phase is considered as a scene for the the general intensive mobilization for which the state president has called. This mobilization is now multidirectional: It is meant in particular to invigorate consultations and dialogue with all partners, and the spreading of an intensive information media activity in order to explain in the best way the true nature and stakes of the problems faced by the country. This mobilization requires the participation of all, because, as recalled by the state president recently, the point at issue is not the saving of a government or a regime, but it is the maintaining of Algeria on its feet, away from obscurantism and the struggle for power. [passage omitted]

Let us today pledge to all our victims that sedition will never obstruct the way for the emergence of a modern, democratic, and prosperous Algeria, and the wound will never undermine the unity of the Algerians. Glory to our loyal martyrs. Long live Algeria. Peace and God's mercy be upon you. [applause]

Islamic Salvation Front Aide Karbani Interviewed

Sees No Solution Other Than 'Force'

MM2604091895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Apr 95 p 6

[Part 1 of interview with Kamreddine Karbani, deputy chairman of the Islamic Salvation Front Executive Committee Abroad, by Jamal Khashiqji at "a location which Karbani asked not to be disclosed for private reasons;" date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khashiqji] President Liamine Zeroual has recently called on the armed groups to lay down their weapons and said that only under such conditions can national reconciliation take place. What do you say about this?

[Karbani] If President Zeroual truly wants national reconciliation, then there is before him the Rome accord which is known as the "National Covenant," which has already been accepted by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] despite the fact that it does not meet all its demands. We are prepared to enter into reconciliation for the sake of the homeland's interests and for an end to the bloodshed, provided that this reconciliation is genuine and meets the Algerian people's demands and puts an end to the excesses committed by the security forces and their acts of murder and arrests.

The situation is grave and painful in Algeria. So if Zeroual is now talking about an opportunity that exists at present, then here before him is the opportunity provided by the National Covenant which might not be available in future.

[Khashiqji] What do you mean by this? Does this mean that the FIS might change its attitude toward the National Covenant?

[Karbani] The FIS still supports the National Covenant which is known as the Rome accord. We encourage any attempt aimed at the peaceful solution of the crisis in Algeria despite the arrest of the FIS leaders, the failure to accept its demands, and the regime's continued excesses.

The message Shaykh Abassi Madani and Shaykh Ali Belhadj sent to the Rome meeting was tantamount to support for the National Covenant from both the political and the legal angles.

But I must point out that the FIS' position toward any radical solution to the crisis was not formulated until after the meeting of all the parties and the FIS leadership, which is the FIS historical leadership, which consists of Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, may God release them from detention, the political board inside Algeria represented by members of the Consultative Council, who are the guardians of the FIS line, the Command of the Islamic Salvation Army, and the Executive Committee abroad. Without the meeting of these parties, the FIS would not be able to adopt a position of destiny.

This is the position of the shaykhs. I have it recorded on a tape which I possess. We must be truthful to God and to the blood and sacrifices of the Algerian people.

For how can we trust the military clique and expect it to accept a political solution after four years of killing: 70,000 citizens according to our figures. As to the missing persons, they are countless and include even women. As an example, may I cite Hajja Ghaniah Kerim [name as transliterated], president of the FIS Women's Bureau, who was kidnapped by the intelligence forces last December and so far nobody knows anything about her whereabouts.

The odd thing is that while some have been clamoring and falsely claiming that the FIS or the mujahidin have been killing women, which the FIS has repeatedly denied, affirming that it was the regime that had been committing these acts, we do not hear anyone talking about the women who sympathize with the FIS and who are close to it and to the mujahidin.

May I state also that the Serkadji [prison] massacre resulted in the killing of 250 prisoners in contravention of all laws and even those who managed to escape being killed were driven into the prison yard where they were stripped of their clothes and were left naked in the yard without food or drink for three days.

After all that, can you expect a political solution from the military? They understand nothing but force and they will not make any concessions until their backs are broken. By then events will have overtaken the Rome accord.

As long as the four generals, who are responsible for the crisis, remain in charge of the regime, we cannot talk about a political solution for the crisis. The best proof of this can be seen in their rejection of the National Covenant. So I believe there can be no solution to the crisis other than by force....

I say with utmost clarity, if the regime is brought down by force, then the conditions and nature of the National Covenant will change. Indeed, the FIS will not then be bound by it.

[Khashiqji] Then why did you go to Rome and negotiate and accept the National Covenant?

[Karbani] Just to provide proof to all those who still pin hopes on the military that no hope can be pinned on them, because they are against the people and against all their national parties, and that they only care for themselves.

Yet, despite all this, we say once more to (President) Zeroual: Stop toying with words and stop shirking responsibility. Here is the National Covenant... it is your last chance.

[Khashiqji] Do you expect anything from the French elections?

[Karbani] That has nothing to do with us. However, we differentiate between one evil and another. If (Edouard) Balladur were to lose, that might be good for the Algerian cause.

[Khashiqji] Then you prefer Chirac. Is that so?

[Karbani] We prefer anyone to Balladur.

[Khashiqji] It is evident that the regime in Algeria has ignored the National Covenant and is determined to hold presidential elections. How are you going to deal with this state of affairs?

[Karbani] When we talk about the elections in an abstract manner, we imagine a secure and stable country in which people can freely cast their votes. But when we compare this picture with what has happened, we find it different. How can those who annulled free elections organize a truly free election? If they want the people to be the arbiters, why did they then reject the people's choice the first time, thus driving the country into the catastrophe we are living in at present?

They want a theatrical election to give legitimacy to the president of the regime even if in form only. We openly say that any of the parties that participates in these elections will become a partner in crime with the regime.

We have called upon the Algerian people to boycott all things that have a connection with these elections such as registration on electoral rolls, the distribution of electoral cards, and participation in the voting. The result of the elections is well known in advance. So how can any truly patriotic person take part in them? Let us remind the Algerian people of the slogan they heard during the annulled elections: "Your vote is a trust for which you will be held responsible on doomsday."

We have heard that they have permitted the European Union to supervise the elections, while in the past they used to reject the internationalization of the Algerian question. But today, internationalization has become an ordinary matter. They should have let the foreign press enter the liberated cities and areas in Algeria so that they could carry a true picture of what is happening. Then they will see what the EU's attitude will be toward the elections.

[Khashiqji] But news reporters have been exposed to assassination in your country. Is it not so?

[Karbani] Reporters are safe in the areas controlled by the Islamic Salvation Army. We can even provide security for them in the capital, Algiers, should they contact us. But will the press feel secure from the regime? They (the regime's men) kill people and then attend their funerals.

[Khashiqji] It is being reported that the armed groups have suffered grave setbacks. What is the truth about what is taking place militarily and what do you know about Ain Defla?

[Karbani] The regime is trying to pave the way for elections, hence its dissemination of reports about alleged military victories. But the fact of the matter is different. For the people find nothing in the face of the regime's obduracy and rejection of sincere initiatives, other than to escalate confrontation against it. For nothing but iron can break iron. The Algerian arena will shortly witness a quantitative and qualitative development in the struggle, God willing, particularly following the unification of the Islamic Salvation Army.

As to Ain Defla, we have received reports from the Islamic Salvation Army as well as from eyewitnesses in the region affirming that a military mutiny has taken place in one of the military barracks, and that the regime rushed to bomb the barracks and the surrounding area and amassed forces to besiege the rebellious brothers. At the same time, clashes took place between the Islamic Salvation mujahidin and the brother members of the (Armed) Islamic Group on the one hand and the army on the other, and the entire region was set ablaze.

The information we have received about the number of those killed, whom we consider to be martyrs, within the ranks of the mujahidin did not exceed 20 while the number of civilians killed by the random bombing by MiGs and helicopters exceeded 100. We also have received information from within the army that the Ain Naga hospital (in the capital) has been vacated of all patients to provide beds for the military and that helicopters dropped leaflets following the battle calling on the mujahidin to surrender and abandon the jihad. All this proves the regime's inability to destroy the mujahidin.

Views Leadership Structures, AIS

MM2604102995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Apr 95 p 6

[Second and final part of interview with Kamreddine Karbani, deputy chairman of the Islamic Salvation Front Executive Committee Abroad, by Jamal Khashiqji; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khashiqji] Has the "National Commander" of the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS] (Madani Mezrak) extended his influence to other groups?

[Karbani] The appointment of brother Mezrak as commander of the AIS constituted a positive step to take the AIS out of the shell it used to crouch in.

On this occasion, I wish to address an appeal to the mujahidin in the central region to speed up the formation of a unified military command for their region and to appoint a commander for it. I still hope that brothers Said Makhloufi, Rabah Kattaf, and Abdellatif will return to the AIS, for their joining the (Armed Islamic) Group was conditional on its adherence to the old course. I believe they have come to realize now who are the ones that are following the true old course and not the innovative one which considers others as infidels and which divides ranks. Besides, to revert to the right path is a virtue.

[Khashiqji] Of whom do the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] political and military commands in the interior consist, following the arrest of the shaykhs [Abassi Madani and Belhadj]?

[Karbani] Brother Mezrak is the national commander of the AIS and thanks to God, he has become also a basic member of the FIS leadership as well as a basic party to any solution. As to the political leadership in the interior, it will resume its activities with the brothers released from detention (Ali Jadi, Abdelkader Boukhamkham, Kemal Kammazi, and others). These people attend political meetings openly and are actively working within the framework of the National Covenant parties.

[Khashiqji] What can you say about the messages sent by Mezrak to President Liamine Zeroual and the parties?

[Karbani] Brother Mezrak has sent notices to the president, the Army, the mujahedin, the principal parties, the FIS shaykhs, and AIS elements. He did not call for the holding of any dialogue with any quarter. He only called for the settlement of conditions and for extricating Algeria from the syndrome of war and internecine fighting it finds itself in now.

[Khashiqji] But who is Madani Mezrak?

[Karbani] Brother Mezrak is one of the sons of the Algerian Islamic movement. He is a self-made man and a skilled sportsman. He holds a second-dan black belt in karate. Before joining the front, he was known for his extreme hostility to the regime, so much so that he stopped his children from going to secular schools and preferred them to get their education in the mosques and at home.

He joined the FIS since its establishment in Jijel Province. He joined the FIS headquarters (in the capital Algiers) following the arrest of the shaykhs and has played an important role in reviving the FIS following the hard times it passed through.

He was detained following the annulment of the legislative elections at the headquarters of the FIS National Bureau in the capital and was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. But he managed to escape from prison and joined the mujahidin where he showed high military capability and extreme courage which enabled him to supervise the formation of the AIS in the Eastern regions. At the beginning, he was appointed coordinator of the Military Committee in the East and later as the AIS National Commander.

[Khashiqji] Why did you refrain from attending the Arab Islamic conference which was held in Khartoum at the beginning of this month and what have you to say about statements by Anouar Haddam, the FIS representative at the conference, who said that the AIS does not exist?

[Karbani] I could not attend the Arab Islamic peoples conference at Khartoum, together with another FIS representative, for reasons that are best not mentioned at present. As to brother Anouar Haddam's attendance at the conference, he did so of his own accord and without any invitation, according to affirmations made to us by the brother Sudanese.

Indeed, he harmed the reputation of the AIS by the statements he made at the conference. In view of this, I find it necessary to explain matters: Brother Anouar Haddam was not a FIS member. Following the detention of the FIS leaderships in Tlemcen Province in Western Algeria, he was nominated as a candidate in the legislative elections and won the first round, in the name of the FIS. He won from among 188 deputies. [sentence as published].

Later he was asked by the provisional FIS National Bureau, which consisted of two people, namely, Abderrazzak Radjem and Mohamed Said, who had joined the FIS following the detention of the shaykhs, in the name of the (FIS winning) parliamentarians, to go abroad, without either the shaykhs or the parliamentarians themselves being consulted.

After brothers Mohamed Said and Abderrazzak Radjem joined the Armed Group, the provisional FIS Bureau disappeared and so did the FIS parliamentary mission which lost all connection with the FIS both in the interior and abroad. Brother Anouar tried to form a parallel committee to the Executive Committee abroad, by the name of the parliamentary mission. When he issued a statement in the name of his new committee and published it in the press, we in the FIS Executive Committee unanimously decided to expel him from the FIS Committee's membership.

Many of the brother parliamentarians protested that this [parallel] parliamentary board does not represent them and proposed the formation of a parliamentary committee of the elected FIS deputies to be attached to the FIS Executive Committee, adhering to its course. Thereupon, Anouar Haddam wrote requesting to be readmitted to the Executive Committee, but we refused.

As to his statement that the AIS is no more than ink on paper, he is only denying something that he knows nothing about, since he has no connection with either the AIS or the FIS and so he does not known their men truly well. What does he know about the great hero of the Algerian west, brother Mohamed Shanouf, the former mayor of El Shalaf? How could he not known also about the hero of the Central regions, brother Azzidine Baah who joined the struggle with the late brother Moustafa Bouyali, may God bless his soul, and who is still continuing his struggle and bears on his left arm the scars of old struggle wounds. How could he not know also about brother Madani Mezrak, the commander of the Salvation Army.

[Khashiqji] The Algerian press have been carrying reports about the eruption of fighting between the Islamic Armed Group and the AIS. How true are these reports?

[Karbani] I have already said that they [the regime] are trying to prepare the political climate for the implementation of their electoral plan by spreading rumors that the mujahidin are fighting each other and that they are fading out. All these reports are untrue. No fighting has taken place between the AIS and the Armed Group. The AIS has previously issued a statement in this respect, pointing out that there were some skirmishes among certain individuals but these skirmishes have not reached the level of internecine fighting.

I have received reports from some individuals who are in close touch with the Armed Group to the effect that the Armed Group was innocent of the statements issued in its name and calls for the settlement of matters with the AIS. We wish the brothers in the Armed Group would publicly refute these statements which are being disseminated by intelligence quarters and elements abroad by the name of the "Al-Ansar" [Supporters]. For we in the FIS Executive Committee have already done so, when we refuted a statement that was issued in our name. In fact, we have counted so far 40 such false statements that were issued in the name of the front, the Executive Committee, the AIS, and some imaginary groups.

[Khashiqji] It seems that Algerian diplomacy abroad has regained its energy. Do you feel this too?

[Karbani] The regime has its own political solution plan and it is trying to implement it by all means. The most important activity they are carrying at present in this regard was to ask the Algerian communities to participate in the elections. Perhaps all they want is to show pictures on the television of voters delivering their votes, hoping that would, perhaps, redress their bad image in the world.

[Khashiqji] What is the nature of your activity in the FIS at present?

[Karbani] My activity in the front is continuing within the framework of the FIS Executive Committee. Despite the difficulty we have been experiencing in moving about, the committee members have been able to constantly keep in touch with each other. We are also in touch with the political leaderships in the interior and with the AIS commands. We do not decide anything without first securing the collective views of the FIS leaderships.

Two 'Dangerous Terrorist Groups' Eliminated

LD2504202295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the security sphere, a statement by the security services said that their forces succeeded today in eliminating two dangerous terrorist groups in the capital Algiers. According to the security services, the first group, made up of four criminals, was eliminated in Sidi Namane in Bouzareah following a tipoff. As for the second group, which was made up of five criminals, it was eliminated, according to the security services, in Bab Ezzeouar.

In another development, the security services eliminated two criminals after a large-scale search operation in El Harrach. During these operations, a quantity of weapons and ammunition was recovered.

Meanwhile, a statement by the security services said today that their forces eliminated 18 criminals during search operations they conducted in the provinces of Annaba, Blida, Oran, M'Sila, Tipaza, Skikda, Constantine, and Algiers. The statement added that a quantity of weapons was seized during these operations.

Security Forces Kill 18 'Terrorists,' Seize Weapons

LD2504182595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces have announced that they killed 18 terrorists, including three group leaders, during various search operations carried out in several areas of the country. Weapons were also seized.

Energy Minister Discusses European Gas Project

LD2504204195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amar Makhloufi, industry and energy minister, said that all aspects of the [natural] gas pipeline project for Europe through Morocco will be realized on the specified dates. Amar Makhloufi stressed that Algerian gas will reach Spain from Hassi R'Mel in June 1996.

When Mr. Makhloufi was asked about the aspect of guaranteeing security for this project, he said that we are conscious of guaranteeing security for this project. He stressed that this is not the first project, as there were two others carried out by two industrial groups within the framework of national and foreign projects in which the sphere of work extended to 30,000 km, in addition to the Maghreban gas pipeline project crossing for Europe. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Envoy Urges Arab-U.S. Cooperation Against Terrorism

NC2504184395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1714 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 25 Apr (MENA)—Ahmad Mahir, Egyptian ambassador to Washington, has stated that the Arab countries, some of which have been and continue to be victims of violence and terrorism, fully understand the pain produced by the terrible explosion in Oklahoma City last week.

Ambassador Mahir, who was addressing an audience of Americans and Arabs today, regretted the fact that some U.S. sources made premature and unfounded accusations against Middle Eastern groups, particularly Arab ones.

The Egyptian ambassador asserted that this demonstrates two important things: first, the urgent need to encourage a better understanding of Arabs and Muslims living in the United States and, second, the need for everyone to join forces to confront violence and terrorism.

Ampbassador Mahir called for Arab-U.S. cooperation to fight terrorism.

He announced: We are resisting terrorism and call on our U.S. friends to cooperate with us in fighting and eliminating terrorism.

Source Denies U.S. Jamming of Radio Communications

NC2504174495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1651 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)—An official source at the Civil Aviation Authority has denied reports that a U.S. aircraft carrier stationed in the Red Sea is jamming the radio communications of Egyptian air controllers to prevent other Libyan planes from violating the blockade.

The source added that the Libyan authorities have committed themselves not to operate any other Libyan flights especially after the UN Security Council approved the transport of Libyan hajjis on board Egyptian planes.

Press reports had rumored that a U.S. aircraft carrier stationed in the Red Sea was monitoring possible flights by Libyan planes and jamming Egyptian radio communications.

Columnist Criticizes U.S. Policy Toward Iran

NC2504191495 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Apr 95 p 2

[From the "Kaleidoscope" column by Ahmad Bahjat: "News and Worries"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some concerns are droll and others are tearful. As the old Arab proverb says: "The worst distress is the one that makes you laugh."

One droll concern was the report carried by CNN in which the U.S. President declared that Iran is one of the most important factors of instability and possible dangers in the Gulf region. Underline the words possible dangers and tell us what it reminds you of. Personally, it reminded me of the story of the wolf and the lamb. They went to drink from a stream and the wolf told the lamb: You are muddying the water.

The new U.S. policy is based on repelling possible dangers while turning a blind eye to existing ones. "The best example of this is its stand on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty." This is the new justice brought about by the new world order.

The wolf and lamb story ended with the former eating the latter. This is what the Americans want. It is like Satan hoping to go to paradise. The Iranian people are not the lamb and the United States, despite all its might, has had a bitter experience due to the Iranian revolution.

The U.S. President told CNN that the U.S. Administration is discussing all options to confront possible Iranian danger. He noted that he was waiting to receive a report on this in the next few days. This is a threat and observers are saying that the upcoming elections are the motive, on the basis that everything is permissible in love, war, and elections.

Another droll and tearful piece of news that reminds us of some popular proverbs is one which says that Prince Reza Pahlavi, the son of Iran's shah, has joined the bandwagon of attacks on Iran. He is calling on Israel to back him politically to topple the regime that ousted his father from the throne in 1979. In an interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Prince Reza said that the Israeli radio's Persian service could undertake this role because it is heard in Iran. He added that he is calling on the Western countries to intensify their pressures to bring down Iran's present regime.

This reminds me of the popular saying which says: "A loser clings to straws."

The prince believes that Israel's radio can restore him to the throne. He is now 37 years old. Had he been only 17, we would have said that was the frivolity of youth. But what can we say? There is an English proverb which says: "If wishes were horses, beggars would be rich."

The world has changed, Your Highness, and the cycle of history has moved slightly forward. The problem with this cycle is that it does not go back.

'Special Nature' of U.S. Trade, Aid Ties Viewed

95LD0049A London al-MAJALLAH in Arabic 5 Feb 95 pp 53-54

[Interview with Muhammad Shafiq Jabr, chairman of the Egyptian-American Chamber of Commerce, by Tal'at al-Mughayribi in Cairo; date not given: "The Role of U.S. Aid to Egypt Has Ended; IMF Has No Right To Require Egypt To Lower Value of the Pound"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Shafiq Jabr, chairman of Egyptian-American Chamber of Commerce, declared that Egypt is acting on the basis that its American assistance has ended. He said that this assistance had served its purpose during the last 20 years and was in both countries' interests.

He talked about the importance of Egypt's participation in the [central eastern market], which has had the result of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He also stated the importance of increasing commercial exchange among the Arab countries. That is dependent upon businessmen, because the coming age is the age of the businessman.

The following is the text of the interview that AL-MAJALLAH conducted with the chairman of the Egyptian-American Chamber of Commerce.

[Al-Mughayribi] What is the volume of Egyptian-American trade exchange currently? What is the future of this exchange?

[Jabr] Egyptian-American commercial exchange actually began in 1974, with the restoration of Egyptian-American relations, which had been severed as a result of the Israeli attack on Egypt on 5 June 1968. The beginning was modest at first in terms of American aid to Egypt, which, at that time, totaled $750 million. It then increased gradually to $815 million until, now, it has reached $2 billion. The momentum of the trade exchange between the two countries increased through banks, industry, and various investments. Those investments have totaled $3 billion. Gradually, the volume of Egyptian-American exports increased. We have been exporting cotton textiles, including Egyptian shirts, to America. This caused a crisis recently, after the quantity of Egyptian shirts was increased over the agreed upon amount.

[Al-Mughayribi] What are the dimensions of the crisis of Egyptian shirts exported to America, and why is there a crisis despite the fact that they are low-cost, high-quality?

[Jabr] Egyptian shirts are entering the cotton textile field. A crisis arose after the quantity of exported shirts was increased from 1 million to 3 million Egyptian shirts. This caused certain countries to demand that America bargain with Egypt. Now, the crisis has been settled.

[Al-Mughayribi] American aid to Egypt: After the Republicans' recent successes in the Congressional midterm elections, it was rumored that the aid would be eliminated or decreased. What are your expectations concerning this aid, and is there an alternative?

[Jabr] President Mubarak recently declared that he would not rely on the assistance forever. American aid is now more than 20 years old, 1974 to 1994. I think that it has served its purpose during that period. It was useful to both Egypt and the United States, since it created a new market for the United States. It also enabled Egyptian production to develop itself, which now gives it the capability of exporting. Therefore, Egypt has also benefited from American assistance.

Accordingly, I believe that the assistance has served its purpose and its role has ended. We now have become capable of producing without assistance. Our fiscal situation is good, and we have large reserves in the bank. Consequently, even if American aid is in fact eliminated, I don't think that it will affect the facts of the Egyptian economy.

[Al-Mughayribi] Not long ago, the IMF put pressure on Egypt to lower the value of the Egyptian pound by 30 to 40 percent, on grounds that exports would increase. What is your view?

[Jabr] I don't support the IMF with regard to this demand. On the contrary, I support the Egyptian government completely in its rejection of this astonishing request, which would grievously harm the Egyptian economy. Reducing the value of the pound cannot be done by administrative decision, which would damage the interests of the Egyptian economy. Altering the pound's value—either upward or downward—must be done on the basis of market mechanisms and not by decree from the IMF. If the government yielded to IMF directives and lowered the pound's value, it would result in ramifications that we do not need.

[Al-Mughayribi] What are your expectations regarding the visit of American Vice President Al Gore to Cairo, and the effect of that visit on the Egyptian-American commercial exchange?

[Jabr] I would like to point out first the special nature of Egyptian-American relations. A strong friendship links us to America. Recently the issue of a crisis in relations between the two countries arose, because of certain American writings critical of certain Egyptian positions. In my view, these writings do not express the opinion of American decision makers and cannot have been directed by them. It is all just the American media writing freely. More indicative of the depth of relations between Egypt and America was the visit made by Vice President Gore last September, on the occasion of the International Population Conference. That visit was followed recently by the visit to Cairo of the American chief of staff and, then, the visit of the American secretary of defense.

[Al-Mughayribi] What is your assessment of the experiment of economic reforms in Egypt?

[Jabr] The experiment was undoubtedly successful in my opinion. We all sense the fruit of those reforms from reducing the deficit to stabilizing the exchange rate to steadying the value of the pound. In addition, the banks have been freed of many of the restrictions that were imposed upon them, foreign trade liberalized, and the way opened for importing. All of this is positive, but the people have not yet felt the fruits of these reforms. This will require changing many of our habits, traditions, and behaviorisms. As an example: despite freeing up the Egyptian economy and pursuing the market dynamic, many of our projects are still operating with a Socialist mind-set as the routine.

[Al-Mughayribi] What is the volume of American investments in Egypt and the size of Egyptian investments in America?

[Jabr] The amount of Egyptian investments in America is unknown. There is no definite data that describes these investments. However, certainly there is continued interest in increasing these investments, because, when Egypt has substantial investments in America, American policy and decision makers will take that into serious consideration when making any decision concerning Egypt. With regard to American investments in Egypt, unfortunately they are not on the desired level, inadequate, and inappropriate given America's size and Egypt's position or role.

Only last year, America invested something like $13 billion in China. American investments in Latin America are considerably more than that amount. Why should this be the case, given the fact that China, Latin America, and Egypt are all developing nations?

I would very much like for Egypt to get more American and non-American investments. This will only occur by encouraging investment, providing opportunities, eliminating red tape, and granting more incentives to foreign investors, such as customs exemptions and lower taxation. It is important that Egypt encourage investment not only for the foreign investor, but also because this is its role and position in the Arab, [Central East], Islamic, and African markets.

[Al-Mughayribi] How do you view the issue of the [Central East] market and the effect of that on the Egyptian economy?

[Jabr] "The march of 1,00 miles", as Mao Tse Tung said, "begins with a single step." We are most serious and cooperative with all Middle East countries. This economic openness will lead to improved Egyptian opportunities and, consequently, the capability to compete. All of that will be economic and social gain not just for Egypt, but also for all Middle Eastern countries. This will impact on the average man himself in Cairo, Tel Aviv, and Casablanca.

With regard to the issue of peace and its connection with economic cooperation. I look at this economic cooperation as being conditional on a just and comprehensive peace. Without it, there can be no economic cooperation.

If the just peace is achieved, I call for economic cooperation not only among the Arab governments, but rather—and before that—among Arab businessmen.

The Arab governments' role must be to simplify paperwork, encourage investment, and eliminate bureaucracy. Arab businessmen are the key to everything, because the coming age is the age of the businessman.

[Al-Mughayribi] What is your evaluation of Egypt's joining the Arab Maghreb Union as an observer?

[Jabr] Egypt is a leading country, whose role is pivotal and major in the region. Egypt's joining the Maghrebi Union is an important matter politically and economically. With regard to the economic framework, the Arab Maghrebi countries have strong relations with Europe. This could be a gain for Egypt after it joins the Union. There are several joint projects from whose establishment both Egypt and the Arab Maghrebi countries could benefit. I have learned that an Egyptian delegation went to Morocco to discuss the question, and another delegation will go to Tunisia for the same purpose. I hope that much will be gained by Egypt's membership in this Union.

[Al-Mughayribi] The volume of commercial exchange among the Arab countries is no more than 6 percent annually, while trade between the Arab countries and the outside world is 94 percent. How can this trade be better balanced?

[Jabr] This is disastrous. Can you believe that the trade exchange among the European Common Market is 66 percent per year? Can you believe that Jordan's trade relationship with Korea is better than its relationship with Egypt?

I think that our—the Arabs'—real problem in terms of trade is our dependence on governments to make the trade deals without considering the views of Arab businessmen.

Look at any foreign official who goes on a tour outside his country. He is accompanied only by businessmen, who have good ideas about the trip. How can profit be made from it in specific projects. They have the numbers, statistics, and feasibility studies.

We Arabs rarely see an Arab official accompanied by businessmen. The need: rely on businessmen and clear the way for them, in addition to solving the traditional problems such as bureaucratic and customs restrictions. Investment opportunities must be encourage[d] for the Arab investor.

Sidqi: Trade Unaffected by Fluctuating Dollar

NC2504112295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has stated that the rise and fall of the dollar's value does not affect our trade dealings and that the instability experienced by the dollar nowadays will not prompt us to use another currency in our trade dealings.

In remarks to the newspaper AL-MASA' published today, Dr. Sidqi notes that the stability of the monetary and financial climate under the economic reform program has raised the Egyptian pound's value in relation to the German mark and the pound sterling and has improved its image steadily. The prime minister emphasized that he is optimistic that the stock market will be able to absorb the government bonds—the first batch of which, amounting to 3 billion pounds, has already been covered—considering the high liquidity in the market and the market's thirst for such bonds. The market, he added, is expected to absorb the batches that will be gradually issued by the government, considering the public's demand for these bonds, which generate a steady income for five to 10 years.

Dr. Sidqi added: Now we have a stock exchange that is one of the best in the world, and we can make the correct decisions at the appropriate time, because the Central Bank is accurately and closely following up the situation.

'Pressure' Exerted on Syria in Peace Process Viewed

NC2604074095 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 19 Apr 95 p 12

[Article from the "Our Foreign Policy" column by Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad: "Pressure on Syria To Hasten To Make Peace With Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We should heed remarks made by former Israeli diplomat Gideon Rafa'el about King Husayn's role in securing Israeli approval for the Syrian forces' entry into Lebanon in 1976 without provoking an Israeli military response.

We should note the following two points: the substance of the remarks and Rafa'el's taking care to make them and publish them in HA'ARETZ.

Rafa'el, who was Israeli ambassador in London when the Lebanese civil war erupted in 1975, said the Jordanian monarch took it upon himself in 1976 to persuade the concerned parties to approve the entry of Syrian forces into Lebanon to halt the civil war that had reached a very serious point. He tried to persuade the U.S. Administration but U.S. officials, notably Henry Kissinger, were not enthusiastic about the idea. They said they could not guarantee the Israeli reaction.

According to HA'ARETZ, the Jordanian king then decided, in line with a request from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, to reach direct agreement with Israel without using Washington as an intermediary. The newspaper adds that a meeting was held between King Husayn and Israel's ambassador in London. The king sought to ensure that Israel would not misinterpret the Syrian forces' entry into Lebanon and make it understand that the operation—according to the Israeli ambassador—only sought to collect the weapons of some undesirable groups. According to the ambassador, those undesirable groups were the PLO and the group belonging to Druze leader Kamal Junblatt, to prevent the latter from seizing control of Lebanon.

Rafa'el says President al-Asad made a promise to Israel through this channel of communication that the Syrian forces would move toward Beirut but not south Lebanon.

It is clear that the publication of Rafa'el's remarks is designed to portray Hafiz al-Asad as someone who does not hesitate to deal with Israel directly if it serves his interests. It is intended to show that the position he is publicly assuming now, namely, refusing to deal directly with Israel—unlike other Arab leaders—and his steadfastness in the current negotiations, is merely an attempt to avoid criticism.

Actually, U.S. and Israeli pressure on Syria has recently reached an unprecedented degree.

Rabin knows opinion polls show his popularity is lower than ever, particularly with the escalation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] suicide operations against Israeli targets, that his government has reached near despair concerning the entire peace process, and that this process cannot be salvaged except by making a major breakthrough on the Syrian front before next year's Israeli general election.

U.S. President Clinton is also exerting pressure, illustrated by his administration's repeated assertions that Warren Christopher's recent diplomatic efforts succeeded and that progress is actually being made in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations in Washington. The Syrians deny this assessment of the negotiations and Israel is making no statements to corroborate the U.S. Administration's assertions.

In the meantime, Israel is continuing its military operations in Lebanon, blockading the Lebanese coast, and attacking Hizballah bases in the south.

At the same time Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller insists on keeping 40,000 troops on Syria's northern border. The public reason for this is to pursue Workers Party of Kurdistan terrorists. Another explanation is to make the Syrian regime understand that its procrastination in the negotiations is not acceptable and is viewed with suspicion. Clinton's administration has announced that Turkey is a U.S. ally and that Washington will not ask it to withdraw its forces from northern Iraq. The Turkish Government, in its turn, has assured Washington that Turkish forces will not approach the oilfields and will not repeat Saddam Husayn's mistakes.

All this shows that the negotiations with Syria have moved from give and take to muscle-flexing. The Syrian president is being told that he cannot shape the rules of the game alone or have the last word.

Two Dead in Gun Battle in al-Minya

NC2504213095 Paris AFP in English 2106 GMT 25 April 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] al-Minya, Egypt, April 25 (AFP)—Muslim militants late Tuesday [25 April] killed a Coptic Christian they suspected of collaborating with the authorities, police said.

The militants killed Safwat Thabit Kiwan after sneaking into his house in (Hanna Adib) village in al-Minya province 250 kilometres (150 miles) south of Cairo.

But as they tried to flee they were surprised by police who had surrounded the house. Militant Mahmud 'Abd-al-Hamid Radwan was killed and two others wounded in the ensuing gunbattle before the Islamists fled into nearby fields.

The latest killings brought the number of deaths in Egypt's three-year violent militant anti-government campaign to around 750.

'Terrorist' in Switzerland Issues Assassination List

NC2504172795 Cairo SABAH AL-KHAYR in Arabic 20 Apr 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayman al-Zawahiri, the fugitive terrorist who lives in Switzerland and is leader of the Vanguards of Conquest Organization, has drawn up new assassination lists he calls "Ben Gurion lists." He called on the organization members to assassinate the people included on those lists.

Published in the AL-MURABITUN newspaper, which he issues secretly in Switzerland and distributes among the group members, some issues have reached Egypt. The lists include Egyptian personalities, including a researcher at the al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies.

The researcher is living in terror. She contacted the security forces to protect her, strongly denying any connection with the Israelis inside or outside Egypt. She justifies the inclusion of her name on these lists by the fact that she is studying the political Islam phenomenon from a critical point of view, analyzing the intellectual tenets and the organizational forms political Islam groups adopt.

Ayman al-Zawahiri, who has escaped a number of sentences, lives in Switzerland under different aliases, the latest of which is "the doctor." He is the leader of the Vanguards of Conquest Organization that was responsible for a number of political assassinations and other terrorist incidents in Egypt.

Security, Political Conditions in South Discussed

95LD0041B Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Feb 95 p 3

[Article from the "Good Morning" column by Sa'id Sinbil]

[FBIS Translated Text] The governor of Asyut, Muhammad Samih al-Sa'id, told me that in the wake of the decree exempting enterprises with investments under 50 million pounds from obtaining the approval of the Investment Authority, Asyut Governorate had received 121 applications to establish new enterprises in the governorate's industrial zones. By contrast, no more than 114 applications were submitted in past years before the issuance of this decree.

This means that a single decision to make things easier for investors has made a real change in the investment climate, has encouraged people to act, and has added to Asyut Governorate alone a number of new enterprises exceeding the volume of existing ones. As everyone knows, every new enterprise provides new jobs for unemployed youths, adds to the national income, and helps combat extremism and terrorism.

A citizen in Egypt can travel from Cairo to Luxor or the New Valley in less than an hour by airplane. However, getting to Asyut, which has been called the capital of Upper Egypt, takes at least six hours by train or automobile because of the long-standing closure of the city's civil airport and the halting of air traffic.

Time is money. Businessmen travel to many cities of Egypt and return at day's end having seen to their affairs and finished their business. This has been difficult or impossible with regard to Asyut, especially for those who live in Cairo.

It became possible to overcome this problem after it was decided to reopen Asyut Airport as of 4 March and link the city to Egypt Air. Furthermore, it was decided to begin converting the airport from local to international status after it became clear that about 450,000 of the governorate's people work in the Arab countries. They include a quarter of a million workers from a single town, al-Qusiyah.

The new international airport is expected to serve the people of the governorates of al-Minya, Sawhaj, and the New Valley. It will spare overseas workers from these governorates the inconvenience of traveling from Cairo to their governorates by train or automobile. It will also provide service for pilgrimage trips and international tourism trips, which will be able to come directly to Asyut; for there are numerous tourist sites in the governorate, in addition to no small number of sites with remains from the Pharaonic, Coptic, and Islamic periods.

The fact remains that the increasing interest in investment in Asyut and the attempts to turn it into an area attracting tourism and put it on the map of the world by making its airport international—all these things could not have been brought to pass had it not been for the stability that has reigned over the governorate recently, especially the security stability and political stability. The governor of Asyut, Muhammad Samih al-Sa'id, has had an active role in fashioning and providing these things.

Sudan

Minister Disputes Uganda's Search for Arms

EA2504185595 Khartoum SUNA in English 1714 GMT 25 Apr

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, April 25 (SUNA)—The state minister at the Foreign Ministry, Dr. Salah-al-Din, has affirmed that the outcome of the search conducted at the office of the Sudanese military attache in Kampala Monday [24 April] was frustrating to the Ugandan authorities and representing a big scandal to them before a huge gathering of press-men who attended the operation.

Speaking at the Foreign Ministry's regular press forum Tuesday, Dr. Salah-al-Din said that Sudan agreed to the search of the office of the military attache in the presence of the dean of diplomatic corps in Uganda and the Libyan ambassador, besides three security officers, explaining that the search [actually] lasted for six hours, witnessed use of force by over 50 of Ugandan security police and armed forces men who broke into the house while it had been sieged by armoured vehicles.

The search resulted in a hunting guns [as received], three pistols, and some ammunition for these weapons. The Ugandan authorities confiscated these few arms on grounds that they were not licenced, Dr. Salah-al-Din said, adding that they were in fact licenced and regarded for protection in a country witnessing the deterioration of security since the 1980's.

That these arms were much lesser than the [words indistinct] arms used by other diplomatic missions in a climate of lack of security [words indistinct] indicating that the Ugandan president can not move without armoured vehicles escorting him.

Government Accuses Uganda of Fomenting 'Upheavals'

AB2504200695 Paris AFP in French 1729 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 25 Apr (AFP)—Sudan on 25 April accused Uganda, which has just severed diplomatic relations with it, of supporting the southern Sudan guerrilla movement and fomenting disturbances in other African countries.

According to a Foreign Affairs Ministry communique, Uganda's announced decision on 23 April is part of a "conspiracy" and proves that Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni "has been giving support" to the South Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA], the main south Sudan guerrilla movement.

"This became clear when government forces cornered SPLA rebel forces in a pocket on the Ugandan border," the communique stated.

Minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din [Atabani] told the press that the "hostilities" started by Uganda "would not just stop at that" because Kampala is "the instigator of upheavals in many neighboring African countries, including Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire, Kenya, as well as Sudan."

According to him, Sudan did not retaliate because "its foreign policy is centered on good-neighborliness." He said Uganda's decision had been "planned a long time ago." According to him, Uganda's ambassador to Khartoum, Ernest Gama, fled to Uganda just before the recent developments without even bothering to inform the Foreign Affairs Ministry, which is normally the case.

Envoys had been dispatched to the Ugandan Embassy in Khartoum to protest Kampala's decision to break relations but they did not meet any diplomats, they only found junior workers, he further stated.

Kampala expelled 11 Sudanese diplomats on 21 April before announcing on 23 April that it had severed diplomatic relations with Khartoum and ordered the departure of the entire Sudanese diplomatic staff before the end of the week. On 11 April, Sudan expelled one Ugandan diplomat in retaliation for a similar measure by Kampala.

Sudan's ambassador to Kampala, (Inayat Mohamed 'Abd-al-Hamid), told AFP that he and his collaborators had decided to leave Uganda next Friday [28 April], but they thought they would have to leave much earlier because of the strong pressure being put on them by the Ugandan authorities.

Dr. Salah-al-Din strongly criticized the way in which the Kampala residence of the Sudanese military attache had been searched and described the action as "inappropriate and shameful."

The residence of the attache, who was accused by the Ugandan authorities of harboring an arsenal, had been sealed up by the Ugandan Police Force. According to Dr. Salah-al-Din, Khartoum gave the green light for the search to reassure the Ugandan Government and demonstrate that its accusations were unfounded but the search was carried out in a "barbarous" manner with the dispatch of tanks and 50 men of the security forces instead of three, as anticipated.

"They only found one hunting gun, two shotguns, and three pistols meant for the personal protection of diplomats owing to the prevailing insecurity in Kampala," he stated. The ambassadors of Tanzania and Libya accredited to Kampala witnessed the exercise at the request of Sudan in their respective capacities as the dean of the diplomatic corps and the representative of the country which hosted the negotiations between Sudan and Uganda in April that led to an agreement for the normalization of relations, he pointed out.

Uganda is the second member state of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] to break diplomatic relations with Sudan after Eritrea in December 1994. IGADD has since 1993 been engaged in a peace initiative to try and resolve the southern Sudan conflict.

The SPLA has since 1983 been fighting against the domination of the pagan and Christian south by the Arab and Muslim north. A joint military and Islamist junta has been in power in Khartoum since the June 1989 coup d'etat.

Bahrain

Paper: Shiite Sentenced for Political Violence

NC2504131995 Paris AFP in English 1257 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, April 25 (AFP)—Bahrain has sentenced a Shiite Moslem to 10 years in prison for taking part in political violence in the Gulf Arab archipelago, a Bahraini newspaper reported Tuesday [25 April].

In the first sentence to be announced since unrest erupted in December, the state security court also ordered him to pay a fine of 58,000 dinars (213,000 dollars) for setting fire to a sports club, AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ said.

The sentence issued by the special court which meets behind closed doors cannot be appealed.

Husayn 'Abbas 'Abdallah al-Marhun, a 23-year-old mechanic "admitted having perpetrated this sabotage at dawn on February 28 in Sanabis," a Shiite village west of the capital Manama, according to the paper received by fax at AFP in Cyprus.

Marhun also admitted "to belonging to a small group of saboteurs who had committed acts of violence and sabotage aimed at destabilizing the country," the paper said.

The newspaper said the fine was to cover the damage to the club and a minibus there.

He went on trial on March 22 after his arrest on March 3.

Eleven other people arrested in December and January have been on trial since March 22 on charges of taking part in protests, inciting violence and belonging to underground groups seeking to overthrow the government.

A third case opened April 10 in the security court where an additional 11 people are standing trial for murdering a policeman.

An unprecedented wave of unrest erupted in Bahrain after authorities arrested and then expelled a leading Shiite cleric, Shaykh 'Ali Salman.

Opposition groups in exile are calling for restoration of the parliament and the constitution suspended by the Sunni-led Bahraini government in 1975.

The security court was created by decree in 1976 a year after the dissolution of parliament which had refused to back a law setting up the tribunal.

Kuwait

Minister, U.S. General Discuss Military Cooperation

LD2504113195 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir Al Sabah conferred with General Binford Peay, commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command, this morning. Gen. Peay conveyed a message to Shaykh Ahmad al-Jabir from U.S. Secretary of State William Perry, thanking him for the warm hospitality accorded to him during his recent visit to the State of Kuwait and inviting him to visit the United States.

At the meeting, which was attended by U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker, the minister of defense and the commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command examined the two countries' joint military cooperation. Gen. Peay insisted that the first shipment of the new Abrams tanks, bought by Kuwait from the United States, will be arriving in the country soon.

Death Penalty Approved for Drug Dealers

LD2504195595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1446 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 25 Apr—The Kuwaiti National Assembly has approved, with the unanimous votes of those present today, the draft amendment to the narcotics law stipulating the death sentence to anyone who produces, plants or imports narcotic drugs with the aim of illegally trading in it in the country.

The law approved by the National Assembly at its ordinary session held today and chaired by Ahmad al-Sa'dun, the speaker, doubles, in many instances, the ceiling for other sentences connected to the narcotics such as trading in it, possessing it, or using it. The maximum sentence in the narcotics law currently in force in Kuwait was 15 years imprisonment and a fine not exceeding 15,000 dinars.

The new law adds strict conditions that if present in the crime will lead to the death sentence such as the recurrence, if the defendant was an official in the public service entrusted with combating narcotics or supervising its circulation and possession.

Among the aggravating conditions are: If the pusher used a youth under 18 years of age, or offered him narcotic drugs or if the crime took place in schools, higher education institutes, hospitals or treatment houses.

The National Assembly had rejected a proposal for a similar law last year, when the members differed over the interior minister's authority to suspend the investigation into crimes stipulated in the drugs law. Those who put forward the proposal for the law had stressed the deficiency in [word indistinct] authorization giving the right to any authority to suspend the investigation in the crimes stipulated in this law for any reason, when there was sufficient evidence that the criminal had committed the crime.

The legislative commission report related to this proposal had avoided this contentious point and the commission withdrew it, stressing that it would act to put it in an independent law.

The proposal for the law, which will be applied three months from the date when it is published in the official gazette, will lay down restrictions preventing the judge from declining to pronounce a sentence in some crimes related to drugs. The same proposal also stipulates that the court may only commute the death sentence to a sentence of life imprisonment and a sentence of life imprisonment to imprisonment for not less than 15 years.

The National Assembly agreed to a recommendation presented by some members calling for the death sentence to be carried out openly in public as happens in some Islamic countries. One of those who made this recommendation said that it would act as a deterrent for anyone who is tempted to commit such crimes.

In another development, the National Assembly agreed to a proposed law regarding the amendment of some of the provisions of the civil and commercial proceedings law. The amendment provides for the need for the court's rulings to be issued by three judges instead of one judge, as is currently the case, except in circumstances which the law makes clear. The amendment also allows the Supreme Judicial Council to delegate justices to head judicial circuits for a renewable period of two years. Based on a request from Mishari Jasim al-'Anjari, the minister of justice and administrative affairs, the assembly agreed that this proposal should be applied beginning in October of the coming judicial year when final decisions would have been taken on the cases before these circuits.

The assembly also discussed a decision taken by the council of ministers last month to suspend the local AL-ANBA' newspaper for five days. The members who spoke in today's session expressed their opposition to this decision, indicating that it was inconsistent with the principles of freedom guaranteed by the Kuwaiti Constitution. Some of the members recalled that the government had committed a judicial error when it used Article 35b of the press law—which the assembly had previously repealed and the decision published in the official gazette—to suspend AL-ANBA'.

The assembly decided to pass the subject to the cultural, educational, and guidance affairs committee to research the legal and constitutional aspects of the suspension decision and that the committee should present its report to the assembly within a month.

The assembly agreed to a recommendation in this regard calling for the government to give AL-ANBA' material and moral compensation for the damage it had suffered as a result of the suspension.

Ahmad al-Sa'dun, speaker of the assembly, adjourned the session until next Saturday [29 April].

Official: Increased Oil Refining Capacity Under Way

LD2504171095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1150 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 25 Apr—A prominent official in the oil sector said here today that Kuwait has begun to implement a plan to increase Kuwait's oil refining capacity to 1.7 million barrels per day inside and outside the country during the coming years, within its recently drawn plans for the future.

This was stated in a lecture delivered by Nadir al-Sultan, deputy chairman of the board of directors of the Kuwaiti Petroleum Establishment, about "Kuwait's oil industry and facing future challenges," at the fourth day of the second international conference on catalytic materials in the oil and petrochemical industries.

He noted that he expects the refining capacity inside Kuwait to reach 1 million barrels per day, with the intention of refining 400,000 barrels per day outside Kuwait, without specifying where, in addition to refining 300,000 barrels per day in Europe.

Mr. Sultan said Kuwait intends to increase its production capacity to 3 million barrels per day by the year 2000, according to the plan for the future.

Mr. Sultan alluded in his lecture to the main challenges facing these plans in the next 20 years, making clear the need to take practicality into consideration when drawing up a plan to meet the increased demand on oil. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd, Clinton on 'Issues of Common Interest'

LD2504225295 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received a telephone call from His Excellency Bill Clinton yesterday evening [25 April].

A number of issues of common interest were reviewed during the telephone call with the aim of reaching anything that can strengthen the process of permanent cooperation and the entrenched relations for the good of the two countries and friendly peoples in the various fields. The custodian of the two holy mosques conveyed to His Excellency President Clinton his condolences for the victims of the painful incident which took place in the State of Oklahoma and which cost the lives of dozens of sons of the friendly American people.

Libyan Pilgrims Continue Arriving for Hajj

LD2504124095 Riyadh SPA in English 1216 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, April 24, SPA—Within the framework of a resolution adopted recently by the security Council to exempt the Libyan hajj flights from the air embargo under which the Libyan pilgrims could be allowed to fly to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on-board Egyptian air planes, the arrival of the Libyan pilgrims is continuing on a regular basis and the number of those who have already arrived from Tripoli and Banghazi until Sunday [23 April] night reached 1,645 pilgrims.

All necessary facilities have been provided for the Libyan pilgrims upon their arrival in the framework of the great efforts being exerted by the government of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to provide all means of comfort for all the pilgrims. It is expected that the total number of the Libyan pilgrims according to the official quota will reach more than 7,000.

United Arab Emirates

Trade Minister Confers With Belgian Counterpart

JN2304095495 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Apr (WAKH)—Sa'id Ghabbash, minister of economy and trade in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], today conferred with Robert Urbain, Belgian minister of foreign trade and European affairs, who is currently on a visit to the UAE.

The meeting dealt with economic and trade relations between the two countries and ways to promote them and the possibility of expanding cooperation in the future.

Sa'id Ghabbash welcomed the Belgian minister and paid tribute to the close relations between the two friendly countries, stressing the need to develop them in all areas. He also stressed the need for increasing the volume of trade between the two countries.

Yemen

Interior Minister Denies Rumors of Resignation

MM2604080795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah: "Yemeni Interior Minister Denies Speculation Concerning His Resignation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yemeni Interior Minister Staff Brigadier Yahya al-Mutawakkil has denied speculation concerning his resignations. He said that these are merely rumors circulated by the opposition. Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Faysal Bin-Shamlan has said that he is on leave. Government circles have ruled out any cabinet reshuffle at this stage.

Al-Mutawakkil told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: I have not submitted my resignation from the government, nor do I have any intention of resigning. He said that what is being said falls within the framework of the rumors promoted by the opposition's newspapers. Al-Mutawakkil strongly denied these newspapers' allegations about an arrest campaign against Socialist Party supporters in a number of southern governorates. He said: On the contrary, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's intention and that of the government in general is to work for universal reconciliation and to close the war file with all and among all, with the exception of the 16 leading figures wanted for trial.

Brig. Yahya al-Mutawakkil downplayed the significance of the clash that occurred between the people of the Tarim area in Hadhramaut Governorate and extremist Islamic organizations. He said that the Hadhramaut incident is of no political significance and was brought under control immediately. [passage omitted]

Minister Views Border Talks, Economy, Coalition

MM2604093995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Apr 95 p 5

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, by Rula al-Zayn in Sanaa; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Zayn] In your capacity as the man in charge of the borders portfolio, as Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has stated, could you tell us what new developments have taken place in the Saudi-Yemeni border negotiations?

[Al-Iryani] In fact the borders portfolio is different from the portfolio relating to decision-making on matters of borders. The borders portfolio represents only the administrative, organizational, and supervisional aspects, while the portfolio relating to decision-making on matters of borders concerns the state as a whole. Thus the portfolio is not what is important. What is important, indeed, is the final decision and outcome.

In my estimation, the borders portfolio has come back to life again for the first time in many long years, if not the first time since the negotiations leading to the al-Ta'if Agreement. This is because life has now returned to the borders portfolio in a realistic and dynamic manner, based on total conviction by the two sides. For there can be no decision or stability without the conclusion of this portfolio. Preparations and arrangements are being completed by the Yemeni side.

The portfolio borders has been brought to life once more by virtue of the Memorandum of Understanding, which, as I have previously said, placed the issue within its correct framework and established bases and principles, some of which were in fact subject to hesitation and doubt on the part of both sides, ours and that of our brothers in the Kingdom.

What remains for us to do now is to set the wheel in motion. But it is better that the ground is fully prepared for this. This is what we are now working on. We have also been informed that the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are also making preparations so that the committees provided for in the portfolio would begin their work. I hope the holding of the first meeting will not be delayed beyond the middle of next month. [passage omitted]

[Al-Zayn] Which quarters, in your opinion, are trying to impede the conclusion of any borders agreement between the two countries? What do these quarters seek to achieve by spreading reports aimed at impeding any likely agreement?

[Al-Iryani] In fact whenever there is anything involving big positive advantages in Arab-Arab relations or whenever there is a situation which reflects very great positive prospects, unfortunately some people, from our side and from within our ranks, try to undermine these positive prospects.

I am not inclined to specifically pinpoint these quarters right now. But I wish to affirm that there are quarters inside and outside Yemen which do not like to see this accord and aspire to rob it of the spirit that is instilled in it, the spirit of the borders.

I have met here with some people from inside and outside Yemen whose talk was all accusations and charges, telling us: You have squandered [the rights], you have sold out, you have surrendered.... In my opinion, this kind of thing should not sway the political will away from its course of seeking to close the borders portfolio in a sound, correct, and final manner.

[Al-Zayn] Do you believe that the measures that have been taken so far are sufficient to improve the economic conditions in Yemen?

[Al-Iryani] Emphatically no. They are measures intended only to prevent any further deterioration of the economic situation. They do not set the wheels of the national economy in motion with the dynamism needed to bring about genuine growth. Any growth that is below 4 percent annually would not be real growth due to the enormous growth in the population and the rate of this growth.

The adoption of the aforementioned measures has enhanced confidence, first, that the coalition government has the political will to make very hard decisions and, second, that the common people and the entire Yemeni people are prepared to accept sound measures.

I believe these measures constitute a preliminary step toward future steps which will undoubtedly be harder but which will lead to the wheels of the economy in Yemen being set in motion, enabling it to achieve genuine growth. It cannot be denied that 1993 and 1994 witnessed sound development.

[Al-Zayn] But the achievement of genuine growth will require a long time. Is it not so?

[Al-Iryani] It will take between four to five years. But this does not mean that the results will only be felt after four-five years. It means that the Yemeni economy will become a fully developed economy through a five-year program. This will mean that Yemen will then be ready and equipped to enter the 21st century with confidence and steady feet with the support of the international community and its investment institutions.

[Al-Zayn] How do you view the future of the relations between the General People's Congress party and the Yemeni Reform Grouping party?

[Al-Iryani] We expect this relationship to continue until the next general elections, which are scheduled to take place in two years. As to the economic, financial, and administrative reform plan, it will continue until 1998 or even 1999. Thus we will be undertaking the preparation of tasks until the formation of the new government. [passage omitted]

[Al-Zayn] Do you think that the Yemeni Socialist Party has a place in Yemeni political life? What is its place on the Yemeni political map?

[Al-Iryani] First, it has its place even today, for we have established as a principle that there shall be a government and there shall be an opposition

There are opposition voices raised that are more intense than that of the Yemeni Socialist Party. But the political reality is that the actual weight of the opposition both inside the Chamber of Deputies and at the level of the voters lies with the Socialist Party and nowhere else. So how can we ask whether it has a place in political life or not. This is an unrealistic question.

But if what is intended by the question is whether the Yemeni Socialist Party has a place in power or whether it will have a place in power in the future, then I can say that as long as the Socialist Party remains an opposition party, it is inevitable that it will try to win a place in power. This is only natural. The present conditions have made the Socialist Party choose to be in the opposition. But I believe, and this is my personal opinion, that the presence of the Socialist Party in the opposition (naturally at the present time) serves the cause of democracy.

Some might favor the formation of a national coalition government prior to the elections despite the fact that is not imperative constitutionally. But the formation of such a government might be preferred so that all would feel reassured that the elections will be held in a sound democratic manner. The Socialist Party is the first party to be considered [for inclusion in the coalition] and in this regard it ranks ahead of the other parties. Undoubtedly its place and position are safeguarded by the constitution and not by the wishes of persons. The constitution guarantees its position. [passage omitted]

Interpol Help Sought in Extradition of Suspects

JN2504192795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the bureau of the republic's prosecutor general has told the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', that the general prosecution has completed the extradition files for the defendants in case No. 1 of 1994, and handed over these files to the International Police, Interpol, in order to chase them and force them to surrender to the authorities of the Republic of Yemen.

The source said the four defendants are 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, Salih Munassar al-Siyali, and 'Abd-al-Rahman al- Jifri.

The source said the four defendants are wanted for justice in accordance with arrest warrant No. 1 of 1995, dated 22 April 1995, for committing actions, including the violation of the Constitution, the launching of aggressions against the citizens' lives and public and private properties, and the continuation of such crimes.

The source added that the escape of these defendants outside the country after the forces of legitimacy's entry into the cities of Aden and al-Mukalla forced the general prosecutor to request the extradition of these defendants by Interpol in order to adopt the necessary legal measures against them in accordance with Articles 28, 40, 42, and 57 of the Unified Arab Agreement for Judicial Cooperation and the other Arab and international agreements that govern such cases.

RCC General Amnesty Decree Pardons Prisoners

JN2604112195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA)—A general amnesty decree pardoning Iraqi prisoners was issued here today.

A Revolution Command Council [RCC] decree in this regard stipulates the release of all inmates who have served 25 percent of their terms, and those on remand [al-muda'in] who have completed 20 percent of the period of their penalties.

The RCC decree exempted convicts in crimes of honor, premeditated murder, and those serving second sentences.

Turkish Spokesman, 'Sources' Cited on Withdrawal

JN2504191895 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel Dogu Salahcioglu, spokesman for the Turkish General Staff's Office in Diyarbakir, has announced that approximately 20,000 troops that took part in the Turkish military operation against the rebels of the Workers Party of Kurdistan have withdrawn to Turkey today, Tuesday. But the special sources of the Iraqi News Agency in northern Iraq said that Turkey has withdrawn approximately 10,000 troops and not 20,000 troops.

The Turkish military spokesman, however, did not disclose the date of the total withdrawal of the Turkish forces from northern Iraq.

Turkish Delegation Leader Urges End to Blockade

JN2504155995 Baghdad INA in English 1455 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, April 25 (INA)—Deputy Chairman of Turkish Parliaments Union Zeki Celiker and the accompanying delegation have arrived in Baghdad on a seven-day visit to Iraq.

Mr. Celiker told INA the aim of their visit is to be aware of the suffering of the Iraqi people due to the 30-states aggression as well as the impacts of the economic embargo on the life of the Iraqis.

During the visit, the Turkish delegation will hold talks with Iraqi officials on developing relations in all aspects in the service of the historical ties and good neighborliness between Iraq and Turkey.

The Turkish MP stressed that the Turkish people and National Parliament demand continuously the lifting of the unjust embargo imposed on the people of Iraq which runs contradictory to world laws and norms as well as the human right list now that Iraq has committed all its international obligations.

He said the continuation of the anti-Iraq embargo has massively harmed the Turkish economy. The Turkish delegation will attend the 5th session of the National Assembly to listen to members' attitudes on the U.S. Resolution 986.

PUK Gaining Iran's Support by Suppressing IKDP

NC2504160095 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 19 Apr 95 p A3

[Report by Hayri Birler]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara—The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), led by Jalal Talabani, is reportedly trying to gain Iran's support by using the Iran Kurdistan Democratic Party (IKDP), which is operating in the region in northern Iraq under Talabani's control, as a bargaining chip.

The PUK has reportedly handed over six high-ranking officials of the IKDP to Iran and has closed down the rebel Iranian Kurdish group's al-Sulaymaniyah headquarters and its branches in Irbil, Taktak, Khaladiza and Ranya.

Iran, which usually takes the side of the KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party) in clashes with its decades-old rival, the PUK, has reportedly started to give its support to the PUK, in recent months.

Also during meetings between Iranian and PUK officials in Tehran and northern Iraq, which began last March, discussion extended to the activities of the IKDP in the region and ways of preventing these.

It has been learned that Jabbar Ferman, who was formally in charge of peshmerga affairs in the PUK, is dealing with relations with Tehran.

Ferman was announced persona non grata by the KDP leader Mas'ud Barzani during the armed clashes with the PUK due to his irreconcilable stance and was posted to the Netherlands by Talabani to allow an agreement to be reached with the KKP. It is claimed that Ferman was brought back to northern Iraq via the Iranian border city of Kermanshah last March. PUK forces took over the IKDP's radio station located in Ranya and stopped its broadcasts on March 18 in order to gain Iran's support. The IKDP then released a declaration on the incident and blamed the PUK for collaborating with the Kurds' archenemy. It also wanted its radio station back. Following this development, Ferman reportedly went to Iran on March 25 and asked for facilitated border passage as well as some weapons from Tehran. In return he offered to hand over six IKDP officials.

Reportedly, Tehran responded positively to the PUK official's demands and offered an unspecified number of cannons and ammunition. Iran also gave the PUK permission to use its territory during its attack on Penjwin.

These developments encouraged the PUK. The latter took one more step and closed down the IKDP headquarters and its branches in the region under PUK control in northern Ira.

Local sources claimed that this policy followed by Talabani, who is using the other Kurdish group in order to gain foreign support for his organization, was not unknown in the region. Sources recalled that Talabani fought against Kurds with Iraqi forces in 1966.

Local sources also mentioned the words of the late Mustafa Barzani, the founder of the KDP, regarding Talabani. Barzani reportedly said, "I prefer Arabs to Talabani, because they are fighting for Arab nationalism but Talabani is fighting to betray his own people."

Living Conditions 'Very Frightful;' Children Dying

LD2404215795 Tehran IRNA in English 2142 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Medina, April 25, IRNA—A professor of Baghdad University described living conditions in Iraq as "very frightful" and said people were struggling against gradual death due to poverty.

The professor, who is here for the hajj pilgrimage after fleeing Baghdad for a European country, said people at times sell on the streets whatever they have in order to get food. Children were dying due to shortage of powder milk and malnutrition, he added.

While the agents of Saddam Husayn enjoy every sort of privilege and facility, the ordinary citizen suffers from the pressures of deteriorating living conditions, he added, saying that some of those close to Saddam had amassed large fortunes for themselves.

Pointing out that ulema [community] and theological centers in Iraq were under strict control, the professor, speaking on condition of anonymity, stressed that people, nevertheless, are continuing their resistence against the Saddam's minority regime despite all pressures. Muslim youths were intensifying their struggle more than any time before, he added.

He pointed out that the U.S. and Western countries had no conflict of interests with Saddam's Ba'thist regime, and indirectly, were even helping him prolong his oppressive rule over Iraq. He believed that the opposition of Persian Gulf Arab states to the regime in Baghdad was also superficial. The professor was also of the opinion that the flow of essential items to Iraq from neighbouring countries was of no help to the Iraqi people and was only strengthening Saddam's gang since the regime takes all for itself while the people remain deprived.

He referred to the recent United Nations' resolution on permission for sale of Iraqi oil, as a measure which only strengthens Saddam. He added that the lifting of oil sanction benefits the Ba'thist regime because the earnings would never reach people's hands.

The Baghdad university professor held the West responsible for the plight of the Iraq people, and said the popular uprising in Iraq in 1991 in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war, was almost close to victory but the U.S. and West played an active role in suppressing it. The uprising by Iraq's Shiite-Arab majority which swept the country and almost reached Baghdad was cruelly put down by the regime with the tacit approval of the West.

As Western TV cameras deliberately focused on the much magnified mass migration of the Kurds of northern Iraq to the Iranian and Turkish borders, Saddam unleashed his full fury on the Arab population, massacring hundreds of thousands and even desecrating the holy shrines of the prophet's infallible household in al-Najaf and Karbala'.

Russian Energy Minister Continues Official Visit

Meets Irrigation Minister on Ties

JN2504130495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA)—Irrigation Minister Nizar Jum'ah al-Qasir met here today with Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik. They discussed the possibility of improving joint cooperation between the two friendly states in the fields of irrigation, construction machines, and pumps.

Views Embargo With Trade Minister

JN2504110695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih today received Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik and the delegation accompanying him.

The minister reviewed during the meeting the impact of the economic embargo imposed on Iraq and how it has deprived the Iraqi people of getting food and medicine.

The two sides discussed relations between the two friendly countries and ways of promoting them in the economic and trade fields in service of their joint interests.

Signs Oil, Gas Agreement

JN2504193195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA)—Iraq and Russia this evening signed an agreement for joint cooperation between the two friendly countries in the field of oil and gas.

The agreement was signed for the Iraqi side by Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad and for the Russian side by Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik.

The agreement provides for implementation of a number of gigantic projects in the fields of investing and promoting oil fields, implementing joint ventures, extending networks to transport oil and gas, promoting a number of refineries, and resuming work on the oil projects stalled due to the unfair 30-state aggression on Iraq.

The agreement signing ceremony was attended by the under secretaries of the Foreign and Oil Ministries, the directors general of the oil sector, and the Russian ambassador in Baghdad.

The Russian delegation, which arrived in Baghdad the day before yesterday, comprises 22 officials representing large Russian oil companies and the under secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Fuel and Energy, and Foreign Economic Relations.

Expresses 'Satisfaction' With Accord

JN2504200895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad and Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik have expressed their satisfaction with and happiness over the signing of a joint agreement on cooperation between Iraq and Russia in the field of oil and gas.

In press statements following the signing ceremony today, they said that this agreement will contribute to promoting the ties of joint cooperation and to serving the interests of the friendly Iraqi and Russian peoples.

Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad expressed his happiness over the signing of the agreement. He said that the agreement has coincided with the Iraqi people's celebrations of President Saddam Husayn's birthday. He said: What was achieved today is a great achievement expressing the entrenched relations between Iraq and Russia.

He added: In accordance with this agreement, work will resume soon at the stalled projects. In addition to this, an agreement will be signed to develop and invest other oil fields.

The minister said: We and our Russian friends are ready to execute the projects within the next few weeks. Plans should be prepared before commencing work on these projects.

He noted: The signing of the agreement will mark the beginning of similar agreements. We hope that other ministries will sign similar agreements to carry out projects in the service of the two friendly countries under such circumstances that will reflect negatively on the ambitions of the United States, which seeks to tighten the blockade imposed on Iraq.

In a statement to journalists, Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik said: We have a good impression of the Iraqi people. We executed oil projects in the past, and we can execute any major joint projects in the interest of the two friendly countries. The signing of today's agreement contributes to breaking the blockade and to bolstering bilateral relations.

He added: Russia was harmed by the drop in world oil prices. It exerted persistent efforts to increase these prices last year through contacting OPEC. We have exerted extensive efforts in this regard.

He stressed that Russia and France have sought to issue a resolution to allow Iraq to export its oil, and that they will continue their efforts to achieve this objective.

Cuban Official Hails Country's 'Steadfastness'

JN2404123695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—Benigno Perez, Cuban deputy foreign minister, has described His Excellency President Saddam Husayn as a courageous and wise leader who has managed to defy the imperialist attempts to weaken Iraq and compromise its national unity.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, he added: I am very pleased to have been received by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, who enjoys a matchless personality, an enlightened mind, and a broad knowledge of current world affairs.

The Cuban deputy foreign minister reiterated his country's support for Iraq's rejection of the U.S. Resolution 986, which infringes on Iraq's sovereignty and compromises its security and national unity.

The Cuban official hailed the Iraqi people's steadfastness and their heroic confrontation of the unfair sanctions clamped by the United States in violation of international law and norms as well as humanitarian conventions.

*Chief Financial Inspector on Government Operations

95LA0139A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 1 Feb 95 pp 18-19

[Interview with Dahham Abd-al-Rashid, Financial Control bureau chief, by Hamid Abdallah; place and date not given: "Financial Control: Ideal Performance Measure; Financial Control Bureau Chief to ALIF BA': Not One Single Department Has Risen to Ideal Performance Level; How Do Underage Children Get To Own Hundreds of Millions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Initially, it did not occur to me that the Financial Control Bureau's tasks went beyond watching and auditing government departments' final accounts and making sure of their compliance with spending laws and regulations. But, in the first minutes of my interview with Dahham Abd-al-Rashid, the Financial Control Bureau chief, he offered me a precise and comprehensive description of control work. Abd-al-Rashid pointed out that, in one respect, financial control means evaluation of the total performance of government departments and institutions and watching phenomena surfacing in job performance, both those pertaining to the conduct of individuals and those pertaining to institutions and their general policies. In other words, control action is based on three mainstays: examination, diagnosis, and evaluation. This is why article 46 of the constitution stipulates the creation of a financial control authority that is tied to the Revolution Command Council and that includes among its duties performance examination and performance correction within a three-to five-year period called the "march correction period." The Financial Control Bureau submits its annual correction plan to chairman of the Council of Ministers so he can begin implementing it after it is approved in accordance with article 3 of Financial Bureau Control law No. 6 of 1990.

Is There Ideal Performance

[Abdallah] What are the criteria in whose light performance level is measured or calculated?

[Abd-al-Rashid] There are ideal standards or criteria that have been established in accordance with scientific rules and indicators and that are used as a basis for performance evaluation.

[Abdallah] Are there departments that have risen to the level of these standards?

[Abd-al-Rashid] Not a single department has risen to the level of the ideal standards, not even to the level of the aspirations. This includes the Financial Control Bureau itself.

[Abdallah] Do you get cooperation from the other departments on financial control work?

[Abd-al-Rashid] Practically, financial control work becomes paralyzed if the requirements of its success are not secured; if there is no interest in its outcome; and if there is no cooperation with the people undertaking this work. Perhaps we encounter all these conditions in our daily dealings. There are those who respect control work and who cooperate to make it successful and there are those who are tangibly interested in its outcome. At the same time, there are those who pay no attention to the outcome of control work and who place obstacles in its way to foil it. Moreover, there are those who despise and belittle control work.

[Abdallah] Does not the bureau have binding powers over government departments?

[Abd-al-Rashid] The bureau cannot be judge and jury simultaneously. We perform our control role as we are required to perform it. Our only recourse regarding those who fail to cooperate or who impede control work is to report them to his excellency, the Revolution Command Council chairman. He is the final and fair judge whose directives and words guide everybody.

[Abdallah] What are the methods that some departments follow to impede control work or to disregard it?

[Abd-al-Rashid] We have dealt with all means, beginning with cooperation and welcome and ending with incentives, intimidation, and expulsion.

[Abdallah] Have the 30-state aggression and the blockade impeded control work, and how?

[Abd-al-Rashid] As a result of the shelling, which affected numerous government departments and institutions, many documents, files, and official papers on which control activity relies as a basis for its work were destroyed. The blockade then followed, bringing with it numerous phenomena that have developed into maladies in civil service and administrative life. We have to diagnose these maladies and then develop the means to deal with them and to uproot them. All these maladies constitute obstacles and barriers in the face of control work.

Our Objective Is To Safeguard Public Money

[Abdallah] Have you discovered cases of job corruption among your personnel?

[Abd-al-Rashid] The Control Bureau is a part of the government departments, and its workers are members of this society. Job and social maladies are contagious. The phenomenon of administrative corruption and of graft exists at all times. But the blockade and the accompanying circumstances have made these phenomena more dangerous.

[Abdallah] We have heard that financial scandals have been discovered in the General Federation of Cooperatives and in its organizations and that, as a result, a number of cooperative leaders have been referred to the courts. What role has the Financial Control Bureau played in exposing these facts?

[Abd-al-Rashid] This question motivates me to clarify an important point, namely that the Financial Control Bureau does not own public money and that public money is not in the bureau's possession. But a primary bureau task is to safeguard public money. We possess information, and we can get information in scientific ways. If this information is requested, we supply it with ease. We express our opinion on the facts and incidents involved, and we offer our recommendations and proposals for dealing with the violations. What happened at the General Federation of Cooperatives is a case of corruption. We were asked to carry out a task, and we participated with other government agencies and submitted the outcome of our work to the higher authorities.

We Want a Fair Tax System

[Abdallah] Does the Financial Control Bureau open its doors to the citizens to submit their complaints and to offer information they possess against government departments and institutions in a manner that serves the public interest?

[Abd-al-Rashid] We are not a security or intelligence agency. However, numerous citizens and civil servants send us requests that include complaints or pleas. They either address their requests to us directly or they send them to other government agencies and supply us with a copy. We certainly benefit from this information in our control work. The financial Control Bureau is not an appeals bureau. But it can be so. However, I find it necessary to set up a central bureau for general pleas. This bureau should incorporate all existing agencies that receive and deal with citizen complaints so it can refer complaints to the authorities concerned.

The maladies afflicting the administration and the phenomena attaching themselves to it have been transmitted from society to the administration. If one wishes to put one's finger on the sources of corruption, then one has to look for the wealthy. Many sons of wealthy men own hundreds of millions when they haven't even reached the legal age. We know that the source of wealth is accumulated annual income and that wealth increases year after year. But how can wealth of such dimensions be accumulated so quickly! Let us ask those who own such wealth how much they have paid in taxes! They opposed the presence of a fair tax system because such a system would affect their fortunes. We hear now calls for the creation of such a system. But it is too late.

[Abdallah] Through your evaluation of the total performance, have you discovered that some cabinet ministries have performed at vanguard level while others rank at a second or third level?

[Abd-al-Rashid] I assume that ministries that get a large share of the public spending must perform at a higher level than those that spend less. I don't ask such ministries as the ministries of health, education, higher education, interior, and labor to perform at the same level as ministries that spend a lot.

[Abdallah] Who is responsible for the phenomenon of administrative corruption? Are they upper links in the administration or minor civil servants?

[Abd-al-Rashid] Corruption begins at the top. If the top official is not a model of honesty and capability, then corruption and weak performance are transmitted to the lower levels. This is why two main qualities must be present in those chosen to hold top-level government positions, namely honesty and capability. These two qualities must have priority over other qualities.

I heard the address the Norwegian prime minister delivered to the population conference that was held in Cairo. She said that the rich commit all that is prohibited and offensive because they can use their wealth to deal with the negative consequences of their acts. They engage in sex, they abort babies, they kill, and they hire people to go to jail for them. These are the very people who transmit the corruption phenomenon to state institutions. Graft is very akin to fornication, which cannot occur unless there is an adulterer and an adulteress. There can be no graft unless there is a graft-giver and a graft-taker. We should not be too harsh in blaming minor employees. What promotes corruption is the lack of a good model, instability of the laws, and priority given to some considerations over others.

For example, neglecting the capability and honesty requirement in the selection of leadership levels and putting this requirement in second place has deprived government agencies of many capable and honest people.

Conformity of Accounts Is Pure Figment of the Imagination

[Abdallah] Are you pleased with the performance level of the Financial Control Bureau?

[Abd-al-Rashid] Of course not. The bureau's performance shows numerous weaknesses and flaws as a result of the general circumstances that are being experienced by the country. But compared to other government agencies, the bureau is above average, if not in the lead.

[Abdallah] Have you found conformity in the accounting rules and financial control regulations in government agencies?

[Abd-al-Rashid] The conformity you are talking about is a figment of the imagination. The degree of accuracy of the accounts of one agency is relatively different from that of another agency. Banks enjoyed accounting accuracy until the end of the 1970's. But their accuracy began to deteriorate gradually afterward.

[Abdallah] What, in your opinion, is the ideal method to uproot corruption phenomena from the administrative apparatus?

[Abd-al-Rashid] The ideal method is to rebuild the national economy; to develop the government agencies; and to build a social structure on modern foundations, not on tribal or ethnic bases.

The conversation with Dahham Abd-al-Rashid became diversified, and the tapes I carried with me to record the interview were no longer enough to document the interview. So, I have been compelled to publish what I was able to document.

I scrutinized a small plaque that the man had on his desk and in which he perhaps summed up his principles—I scrutinized it so closely that I memorized it by heart. It says: "Seven [words indistinct] destroy man's life: Politics without principles; pleasure without conscience; wealth without work; learning without values; commerce without ethics; science without humanity; and worship without sacrifice." Can I add anything to the plague? I don't think it can hold more, and I don't think I can add anything.

Lubrani Doubts Car Bomb Linked to Hizballah Infighting

TA2604051895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Me'ir Einstein; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Einstein] Do you agree that yesterday's Hizballah attack was part of an internal struggle between Subhi al-Tufayli and Hasan Nasrallah?

[Lubrani] No, I do not think that is the case. I think that Hizballah is operating against us. Nasrallah is no less dangerous and extreme than al-Tufayli. They are engaged in an internal struggle, but I do not think they differ much in their common struggle against us. There is a daily war with Hizballah in the north.

[Einstein] Nevertheless, commentators and reports from south Lebanon claim that Nasrallah, the movement's secretary general, said that when peace reigns between Israel and Syria, Hizballah's inclination will be terminate such activity. Should Israel weigh its response at this stage with an eye to what is happening inside the organization?

[Lubrani] I think that what we hear from Hizballah, no matter from whom, should not be taken as the gospel. Nasrallah is a Hizballah leader who operates against us, and we have suffered many losses under his orders. Therefore, only God knows what will happen in the future. We have to know what will happen tomorrow and the day after.

[Einstein] With regard to what will happen in the coming days: Is yesterday's incident, which followed a lengthy period with no suicide attacks, an isolated incident or the start of a new offensive using that method?

[Lubrani] I am no prophet. The fact that we came out of it this time without loss of life—according to the initial debriefing, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operated according to procedures—strengthens my view that the more we know how to deal with the phenomenon, the less they will employ these methods. There have been car-bomb attacks in the past, and they never decided to stop such attacks. They suspended them in practice because they feared they would fail. This time, it worked, but I think that if we learn how to deal with the problem, they will not repeat it.

[Einstein] The terrorists are threatening to fire katyushas at the Galilee, as they did recently, if the IDF responds. Should Israel take this threat into account?

[Lubrani] We are not looking for a conflagration in the north. We never sought that. This time, our fire was directed precisely at the sources of fire. You know that katyushas and mortars were fired into Bint Jubayl, wounding three Lebanese Shiite civilians, who were evacuated to Marj 'Uyun. The wounded woman was later taken by helicopter to Israel. There are no laws as to what will happen.

General Calls For Response to Hizballah Activity

TA2604064095 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General 'Amiram Levin, commander of the Northern Command, has called for a resolute response to Hizballah activity. Gen. Levin visited IDF [Israel Defense Forces] casualties hospitalized at Haifa's Rambam Hospital. Qobi Mandel reports:

[Begin recording] [Mandel] Gen. Levin arrived at Rambam Hospital last night to see for himself the condition of the nine soldiers wounded in yesterday's car-bomb attack and the condition of the two soldiers wounded in earlier attacks. The general was asked to react to yesterday's attack near the village of Bint Jubayl.

[Levin] It is a direct continuation of the fighting in Lebanon, and we will have to deal with it.

[Mandel] Does it mean Hizballah is being more daring by using suicide attackers?

[Levin] I do not want to analyze that here. It is not more daring to send a suicide bomber. In fact, it is less daring and may be an indication of helplessness. It would be wrong to conduct a daily check of the barometer as to whether the situation has worsened or improved. There is ongoing fighting. Hizballah does all it can to strike at the IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army]. Sometimes it succeeds—in this case, to a very small degree—and sometimes it does not score achievements. We will fight it and do what must be done.

[Mandel] Can we say that Hizballah activity against the IDF in south Lebanon has increased since the start of the year?

[Levin] There is a certain increase in the number of incidents. This is war and in war, proper action must be taken with determination, patience, and persistence. That is what we are doing, and that is how we will defeat them. [end recording]

Cabinet Meets on Evacuation of IDF Bases, Aid to PA

TA2604110995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz; italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reported to the cabinet the decision to move three large IDF [Israel Defense Forces] training bases in the territories—one of them the large boot camp at training base No. 4 near Bet El—to the Green Line. The Treasury is now working out the cost of the transfers.

Minister Shulamit Aloni is not pleased with the prime minister's announcement. She wants the cabinet to be presented with a detailed decision, including costs, budgets, and, if necessary, a change in priorities, in order to evacuate the three bases immediately. I believe it will not take long before the three bases are evacuated.

The prime minister's report was part of a detailed debate on the significance of the closure because separation and closure are becoming facts. The prime minister supports giving financial aid to the Gaza Strip. The residents of the territories working in Israel earn about $300 million annually. For the past year, Yosi Sarid has been discussing the need to fund or assist the autonomy.

[Sarid] *The question is what is the cost in security—a currency we are not prepared to pay—compared with money, which is always cheaper. The situation that has emerged in the Gaza Strip is totally unacceptable and dangerous. The chief of staff said yesterday that if it continues, the Palestinian Authority [PA] will collapse, and he is right. The PA is collapsing and with it the agreements between us and the Palestinians, and the entire peace process is in upheaval. Therefore, financial aid is the need of the hour. Either we lift the closure or we start an economic aid plan to the PA. The cabinet unanimously backed the idea to help the PA economically. The budget will not be insignificant and the way to go about it is now being studied. International organizations that can be recruited to give additional financial aid to the autonomy are being assessed. Another conference of donor states is taking place in Paris today and tomorrow. Many demands will be made on Israel to help the territories economically. Israel is also being blamed for the closure, which is cited as one of the reasons for the dire economic situation of the residents in the territories. To recall, Major General Oren Shahor, coordinator of activities in the territories, reported that the unemployment rate in Gaza is almost 50 percent of the work force. Among the various ideas under discussion is Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur's suggestion that the agreement with the PA which restricts its trade with third countries be amended.*

[Tzur] *I believe that the customs package and the ban on trade with Jordan and Egypt must be reconsidered. I think that taking into account the dramatic change that has taken place—the separation—we should consider financial aid to the PA for a limited period, because we are not indifferent to what is happening there. There is no doubt that reality is significantly different from the basic assumptions in the peace agreements about open borders and the flow of workers.*

Minister Shim'on Shetrit, who in many ways represents the government's right wing, supports financial aid to the autonomy, although he thinks we should not forget who is mainly or exclusively responsible for the PA's economic distress. He is, of course, referring to terrorism and the Palestinians' lack of action.

[Shetrit] *The problems of the separation and the security measures that restrict the entry of goods are a result of terrorist activities, which partially stem from the fact that the PA did not break the organizational and operational frameworks of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. Now we must discuss how to ease the security measures, which are an outcome of those activities. This is a vicious circle which must first be broken by the PA's determined action, which has improved lately, against those forces that operate against us and which will operate against 'Arafat as well later on.*

Settlers, 'Peace Now' on IDF Redeployment Decision

TA2604112995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In reaction to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's announcement that three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] training camps will be transferred from Judaea and Samaria to within the Green Line, the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip said it views the decision with gravity. The council spokesman said it is a sign of the government's intention to evacuate the IDF from the city centers soon, which, he said, will lead to the Gazanization of Judaea and Samaria and a sharp rise in terrorist attacks.

The Peace Now spokesman welcomed the prime minister's decision. He said the movement expects the IDF's redeployment to take place before July in order to adhere to the agenda decided on in the negotiations. Peace Now said the elections in the territories will be brought forward only if the IDF redeploys in the territories as soon as possible.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat is now convening a meeting with the chief of staff, the director general of the Defense Ministry, and senior officials to discuss the budgets required to redeploy in the territories. The finance minister told our correspondent Shlomo Raz that the plan requires evacuating bases and commands and the building of bypass roads, which will cost hundreds of millions of shekels. Minister Shohat also noted that he opposes the plan being worked out in the cabinet to provide financial aid to the Gaza autonomy. He said many international elements undertook to donate hundreds of millions of dollars to the autonomy. In any event, he said, the problem there is not financial.

Major General Oren Shahor, coordinator of activities in the territories, reported to the cabinet today that the unemployment rate in the territories is approximately 60 percent.

Al-Rujub's Hebron Offices Raided; 7 Detained

TA2604125995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces today raided the Hebron offices of the Palestinian preventive security apparatus headed by Jibril al-Rujub. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Dani Zaqen that the troops confiscated cars, radio equipment, and other gear, and that seven preventive security members were detained.

Our correspondent notes that Jibril al-Rujub's preventive security organization violates the law by operating outside the autonomy—namely, throughout Judaea and Samaria.

Energy Minister on Natural Gas Project With Egypt

TA2504111795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and Egypt are close to reaching agreement on the sale of natural gas between the two countries. Energy Minister Gonen Segev and the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, Muhammad Basyuni, made the announcement at a joint press conference this morning. The move follows talks Segev held in Cairo last week on possible joint energy projects. He told No'omi Segal that he received a letter from Egypt's oil minister expressing interest in the sale.

[Begin recording] [Segev] I think that the new thing in this letter that I got from Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, the oil minister of Egypt, is that it is the first time that the Egyptians sign not a contract but a letter that is talking about the wishes of Egypt to make a gas project together with Israel: Israel, of course, as a buyer, and Egypt as a seller.

[Segal] And what's the span of this project? What amounts of gas are we talking about?

[Segev] We are talking about natural gas that we will buy from Egypt, and we will transfer by a pipeline that will start in Timsah and Baltim, both gas fields near the Nile. The pipe will arrive in Kerem Shalom on the border between Egypt and Israel, and from there we will have a common carrier—another pipeline that will cross Israel from the south to the north. We are talking, at the beginning, about 2 million tonne equivalent of gas.

[Segal] These discussions are also coming at a time when there's been tension in relations between Israel and Egypt. What kind of impact does this have on the contacts you've had?

[Segev] At first, if we have the contacts, or the first time that we have a signing of a letter, it means that the tension didn't do any harm to this project, and I prefer that when I talk to Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi and to Dr. Usamah al-Baz all of us decided that relationships or economic relationships have nothing to do with the political tension that we can see here and there when there are new relationships between two countries. [end recording]

Segev also said that experts from Egypt, Jordan, and Israel have agreed to hold periodic meetings on the development of an electricity grid linking the three countries. He hopes that such a hookup will eventually be a power source for Europe.

Egyptian Arms Control Demands Reviewed

TA2504125995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Apr 95 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Exaggeration Bordering on Chutzpah"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Were it not a serious issue in the relations between Israel and the Arab countries, first and foremost with Egypt, the latter's demands regarding arms control could be taken as a joke. Egypt demands that Israel expose itself in every sphere where it has some qualitative edge, not just in the nuclear issue. Describing it as a need for "transparency," it claims that to be trusted in the peace relations Israel must be as transparent as crystal. It expects Israel to do things no other country, neither the Soviet Union nor the United States, has done in our lifetime. At times, Egypt's demands are so exaggerated as to be absurd.

In the last session of the arms control talks in which the issue of transparency was discussed, the Egyptian representatives focused on the Israeli Air Force. The reason is clear. This Israeli military arm has always bothered Egypt and the Arab countries due to its professional quality and operational prowess. What did the Egyptians demand? That Israel report and disclose details about the Air Force's airborne electronic warfare systems. As part of the "transparency" process, the Egyptians demanded to be notified each time Air Force planes are stationed outside their permanent bases, to get a report about reconnaissance flights and the activity of pilotless planes, and to be informed in advance about any testing of new weapons by the Air Force. No more and no less.

Such demands are usually posed to countries defeated in war. They are further proof that the argument is not just about the nuclear question. Egypt is striving to gnaw away at any area where it believes Israel enjoys a qualitative edge. The Cairo officials who compiled the list of demands must have been naive to believe that Israel would comply with them. Perhaps they raised them despite the fact that it was clear to them that their demands would not be heeded, since this is one way to maintain permanent strife and paltry normalization between Israel and Egypt.

Of course, Israel categorically rejected the Egyptian demands concerning the Air Force. Israel wants to discuss reciprocal confidence-building measures that include an element of transparency, but wants to advance slowly and gradually. That is what the Western and Eastern blocs did for years. For example, for years Israel has been proposing mutual visits by army officers. It did not hesitate to suggest visits to tank-manufacturing and refurbishing plants, including the one where the Merkava tank is assembled, and to military academies. As a first step, Israel proposed visits to the Navy and Medical Corps academies. The Egyptians, who had been demanding that the Israeli Air Force bare its soul, seemed taken aback by the proposals requiring openness and transparency on their part.

Another Israeli proposal was to exchange information about nonsensitive issues such as defense budgets and manpower. Each side would present its defense budget and answer questions to the extent possible. The only thing the ?gyptians agreed to was to exchange information about senior appointments in the defense establishments of the participating countries. They did not seem thrilled by the proposed exchanges of information about defense budgets and manpower and gave no reply to the proposed visits to military academies.

This need not lead to the conclusion that every issue raised at the multilateral arms control talks runs aground. Although the Egyptians tend to move slowly and to occasionally procrastinate on certain issues, there are times when other participants seem eager to reach regional achievements. In the session in which the Egyptians raised their demands concerning the Israeli Air Force, the participants reached several interesting accords on issues the arms control committee had been discussing for quite some time. For example, work was completed on the agreement to prevent incidents at sea, which provides for search and rescue operations that involve missing persons, meeting points at sea, and how these meetings would take place.

Another agreement the drafting of which has been completed and could be an important element in building mutual confidence has to do with reporting large troop movements a week in advance. This refers to large-scale movements of big units, either infantry or armored—at this stage reference is only to infantry—outside their permanent bases. The clauses in the agreement are quite specific and would seem to refer to the movement of units larger than a brigade. This agreement would not be automatically binding on all committee members, and compliance would be voluntary.

This approaqh obviates pressure on the participants, but poses a rather tough problem to Israel which would not like to find itself in a situation where it is required to report troop movements to an Arab country that has joined the agreement, whereas Arab countries that have not joined the agreement are not required to report theirs. This underscores the importance Israel attaches to a regional agreement and the fact that it must take care not to divest itself of certain assets before all the countries in the region make peace with it and agree to do the same.

Foreign Minister Discusses Iraq, Other Issues

JN2204095995 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Apr 95 p 29

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH correspondent Riyad Mansur; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Mansur] You have recently met with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. What happened in that meeting, and how do you view the Security Council resolution which allows Iraq to sell limited quantities of its oil?

[Al-Kabariti] I met with 'Aziz at my office in Amman after his arrival from New York where he participated in a meeting there. As for the UN resolution which allows Iraq to sell limited quantities of oil, it is an advance step toward easing the human suffering of the Iraqi people. However, this resolution should not be an alternative to the complete lifting of economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations on Iraq in 1990. Nevertheless, this is a sovereign issue that is left for Iraq. [passage omitted]

[Mansur] Some political circles speak about a U.S.-Israeli secret plan to settle refugees in Jordan.

[Al-Kabariti] We are not acquainted with any plan, whether a U.S., Israeli, or a joint plan. In principle, we call for the right of return and compensation in accordance with the UN Charter and international law. [passage omitted]

[Mansur] Syria says Jordan dealt a blow to Arab coordination by signing the treaty with Israel. How are relations between Amman and Damascus now?

[Al-Kabariti] The terms of reference of the peace process concerning the Jordanian, Syrian, and Palestinian sides are the Security Council resolutions that clearly call for the return of the occupied territories and the right of each country to sovereignty, security, and recognized borders. We, Syria, and Palestine have the same legal terms of reference, and on this basis we began the process in Madrid. We succeeded in realizing our objectives at this stage, and we hope that this will assist the Syrian side in restoring its full rights. We understand and support the Syrian position, and we do not accept that the Jordanian position be described as separate. This talk may imply that unwillingness to reach an agreement is a case of unilateralism.

[Mansur] Will you mediate between the Syrian and Israeli sides?

[Al-Kabariti] Relations with Syria are normal. On our side, we do not want these relations to be normal, but we want them to be distinguished. Jordanian diplomacy has always worked for this objective.

[Mansur] Do you intend to visit Damascus?

[Al-Kabariti] When the opportunity is available, I will surely visit Syria.

[Mansur] It is said that you will visit Gaza soon, and then Israel. Would you tell us the reasons for this visit?

[Al-Kabariti] Yes, I will visit Gaza soon to inaugurate the Jordanian representation mission in the self-rule authority, but my agenda does not include a visit to Israel.

[Mansur] When will the representation mission be upgraded to an embassy?

[Al-Kabariti] We will immediately do this when the opportunity and circumstances of the Palestinian National Authority allow for it.

[Mansur] How does Jordan deal with the Palestinian passport?

[Al-Kabariti] Jordan was the first country to declare its recognition of the Palestinian passport as an official document, and to grant all necessary facilities.

[Mansur] It is said that Jordan was officially asked to deport Ibrahim Ghawshah, the official spokesman of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Jordan.

[Al-Kabariti] We have not been officially asked to deport anybody. Jordanian citizens who carry Jordanian passports are subjected to Jordanian law, and we do not accept to be told how to deal with any party. [passage omitted]

Details of Jordan Rift Valley Symposium Reported

JN2504102695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Apr 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by staff correspondent P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—A meeting seen key to advancing efforts to develop the Jordan Rift Valley got off to a good start Monday [24 April], with a large participation by high-level officials from Jordan, Israel and the U.S. as well as senior executives from dozens of American multinationals.

The three-day symposium is expected to bring closer proposals and views of the governments and private sectors of the three countries in terms of implementing several billion dollars worth of projects in the Jordan Rift Valley that Jordan and Israel share.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Israeli Foreign Ministger Shim'on Peres attended the opening session of the symposium.

Representatives of 50 U.S. companies as well as large Jordanian and Israeli delegations of officials and businessmen are attending the event.

Details of the projects and related discussions are expected to emerge on Wednesday, the last day of the symposium, which is organised by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA). However, definite results of the discussion are unlikely to remain unknown until the projects are ready for implementation if only because of their competitive nature and private sector involvement in them.

The projects involve roads, railways, developing seaports and airports, linking the Red Sea with the Dead Sea, mineral exploitation, tourism, telecommunications, energy, etc.

Developing the Jordan Rift Valley is seen as a key component of efforts to reap the benefits of peace in the region after Jordan and Israel signed the Oct. 26 peace treaty.

The proposals for the projects were drawn up by the governments of Jordan, Israel and the United States, but the emphasis on realising most of them is on the private sector, and hence the significance of the large participation by American businessmen, said TDA Director J. Joseph Grandmaison.

The TDA estimates that there are up to $4 billion worth of commercial opportunities in the Jordan Rift Valley which should go parallel to investments by the governments of Jordan and Israel to build related infrastructure services.

"The interest of the business community in the Jordan Rift Valley has been exceptional," said Mr. Grandmaison in an opening speech, adding that TDA was unable to include all the U.S. firms which wanted to attend.

"Not only is the number of firms which are here impressive," he said. "The quality of the companies is truly extraordinary. This bodes well for the future because the implementation of many of these projects will fall to the private sector."

"The historic peace agreement between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel has created a new challenge," he said. The challenge is "how do we ensure that peace-making becomes peace-building."

The symposium is an "opportunity to move the peace process forward by working together on the specifics of the projects that will transform the Jordan Rift Valley into a centre of economic cooperation, (of) projects that are of mutual benefit to Jordan and Israel."

Mr. Grandmaison also noted that the TDA as well as the Department of Commerce and the Overseas Private Sector Investment Corporation were closely involved in the Amman symposium, part of a series of meetings in the run-up to the Middle East and North Africa economic summit to be held in Amman in October.

All three agencies and departments are working under a mandate from U.S. President Bill Clinton, Mr. Grandmaison noted, and read out a letter from the president to the meeting.

"This symposium provides an important forum for discussing some of the major issues concerning the (Jordan Rift) Valley's development," said the president. "I hope public and private officials from each of our nations will take this opportunity to share technical, economic, and financial expertise. Working together, I am confident we can build a brighter future for all our people."

Minister of Water and Irrigation Salih Irshaydat also underlined the importance that Jordan attaches to the symposium and the promises it holds out in terms of a better life for the people.

"Our young generation has known nothing but regional strife," said the minister. There is "no turning back" from Jordan's commitment to maintaining peace and to "resolve all outstanding issues with neighbours."

"Economic benefits should shore up the fragility of peace... (and should) transcend the political boundaries of the partners," he told the opening session.

The minister set out an 11-point list of priorities that he said, Jordan believes, were essential to the success of the development efforts in he Jordan Rift Valley.

These included infrastructure to assure the movement of goods, inter-governmental cooperation in helping the private sector, public sector funding for essential infrastructure and services, equality between government in sharing the output of projects and quick decision-making.

Among the participants are: Raytheon International, Core International, Bechtel Corporation, Stone and Webester Corporation, the Dupont Group, Montgomery Watson, K&M Engineering, MCI Inernational, Science Applications International, Atkinson Construction, AT&T, Cather International GTE, Harza Engineering, Camp, Dresser and McKee, Ecology and Development, FTR International, Morrison Knudsen, and Salomon Brothers.

The Israeli delegation to the symposium includes Alon Liel, director-general of the ministry of planning, Michel Arbel, a senior foreign ministry official, Refael Benevisti, Pinhas Guuekstern and Joseph Vardi, advisors to the government, Pinhas Benshaul, head of the planning department of the Ports and Railway Authority, Michel Beyth, head of earth science research administration, Oded Eran, a senior economic expert, Valeri Brachya, a senior expert, Valeri Brachya, a senior expert in the environment, Yoram Grushkevich of the Bezek telecommunications company, Yehuda Bronicki of Ormat, and Yoav Sarne of Epstein and Sons.

Among the Jordanian officials attending the symposium are: Ministry of Planning Under-Secretary Nabil 'Ammari, Ministry of Tourism Secretary-General Ghassan al-Miflih, Royal Scientific Society President Hani al-Mulki, Jordan Electricity Authority Director-General Muhammad 'Arafah, Amman Financial Market Director- General Umayyah Tuqan, Telecommunictions

Corporation Deputy Director General Afram Jamil, Natural Resources Authority head Fakhri al- Daghistani, Qusayy Qutayshat, secretary-general of the Ministry of Water and Irigation, Mr. Qutayshat's deputy Dhafar 'Alam, and Prime Ministry advisor 'Abd al-'Aziz Wishah as well as executives of Jordanian companies.

Prince Hasan's Remarks Reported

JN2404150295 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has announced that Jordan and Israel would set up a joint authority to develop the Jordan Rift Valley with U.S. help.

Prince Hasan said the proposed joint authority will handle coordinating implementation of fast-track projects.

The crown prince said thousands of people are looking to the returns of the peace process. His royal highness made the remarks at a symposium opened here in Amman this morning to tackle development projects in the Jordan Rift Valley.

The crown prince commended a set of American tables of approach. He said those ideas will lead to a clear definition of what the next clear step will be, and to help parties concerned where they stand in encouraging investment. His royal highness also praised the U.S.-suggested master plan for coordination, which he said should be in place before the parties concerned move to the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit due to be held here in October.

Peres Says Trade Accord 'Almost Finalized'

JN2504123095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Apr 95 p 8

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said Monday [24 April] Israel and Jordan had almost finalised a trade agreement and that his country was ready to discuss any Israel-related problem related to implementing Jordanian-Palestinian accords.

The trade agreement is part of the accords that Jordan and Israel agreed to sign as part of a process of normalisation of ties following the signing of their peace treaty on Oct. 26.

Several rounds of negotiations were reported to have produced a draft accord, but Israeli insistence on limiting the extent of preferential treatment it would offer to Jordanian products was said to have been holding up the finalisation of the agreement.

Mr. Peres was asked at a press conference Monday on the fringes of a symposium on development of the Jordan Rift Valley on the reports, which also suggested that Israel was being insensitive to the huge disparity in the economies of the Kingdom and the Jewish state.

"I think the problem has been resolved," Mr. Peres replied. "The Jordanians have submitted a list of commodities that they want to export to the west of the Jordan River. I think we have reached an agreement."

"On the contrary (to reports of Israeli insensitivity to economic disparities), Israel is asking Jordan to be a little bit more forthcoming on the issues, and I hope this too will be resolved," he added. He did not elaborate.

No Jordanian comment was immediately available. But informed sources said the sticking point in finalising the trade accord was a "free trade area" that Israel suggested as a component of the agreement.

Specific details of the proposal were not available, but, according to one source, "the idea of a free trade area (as part of the agreement) came up only recently and the proposal was new to Jordan."

"As such, Jordan is seeking a little bit of more time to study the issue before committing itself either way," said the source, who preferred anonymity. "But it is a safe bet that the accord could be signed in four to five weeks."

Under the peace treaty, Jordan and Israel are supposed to sign several agreements before May 10, among them the trade accord. But "it will not be a disaster if such an important agreement as the trade accord is not signed before the deadline," said another sources.

In his comments Monday, Mr. Peres acknowledged that "there are contradictions" in agreements signed by Israel and the Palestinians and by Jordan and the Palestinians but said his country was ready to discuss and resolve them.

He said some the "contradictions" were of "bilateral nature" and affected all the three parties. "If we have a problem, then I tell the Jordanians, we sit down and negotiate it," he said. Similarly, Israel will also sit down with the Palestinians separately as well as together with Jordan to sort out the problems, he added.

Mr. Peres' comments followed statements by Palestinian officials that Israel was impeding the implementation of some of the accords that the PNA has signed with Israel.

Israeli-imposed restraints on Palestinian freedom of imports from Jordan are seen to limit the scope of Jordanian exports to the Palestinian territories. As a result, Jordan and the PNA had to put off the signing of their agreement until early May.

Industry and Trade Minister 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib said last week that PNA Economy Minister Ahmad Quray' had told him that the PNA and Israel had managed to settle some of the problems and that the Palestinians hoped to resolve the rest in time for the signing of the Jordan-PNA accord in May.

Crown Prince Receives U.S. Deputy Commerce Secretary

JN2404153995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan this morning received David Barram, U.S. deputy secretary of commerce. They reviewed the scope of bilateral economic and trade cooperation, as well as the ideas and projects that will be part of developing and promoting the Jordan Rift Valley.

Jordanian American To Sue Media, Interrogators

MM2504091995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Apr 95 p 1

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Ibrahim 'Abdallah Hasan Ahmad, the Jordanian American who was interrogated in connection with the Oklahoma City explosion but was later released, by Muhammad Sadiq in Washington; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ibrahim 'Abdallah Hasan Ahmad, the Jordanian American who was interrogated in connection with the Oklahoma City explosion but was later acquitted, has said that he will sue the British security service that interrogated him at Heathrow Airport last Wednesday [26 April] for the way he was treated by interrogators there.

He also said that he will consider suing a number of U.S. media services which "decided" from early on that he was suspected of carrying out the explosion, which destroyed a government building in Oklahoma City last Wednesday, resulting in the death of over 200 people—some still missing—and injuries to 400.

Ibrahim Ahmad said that he still has not received his baggage from Rome, and that he is scared because "something might be planted in it." As for the hammer said to have been in his suitcase, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked him whether he was carrying with him a hammer from the United States to Jordan. He said: "By God, I don't know why. There was a hammer; telephone, fax, and video cables; spoons and forks...as you know, people there like U.S.-made things."

Despite his acquittal, Ahmad says: "My sleep has become abnormal. I have nightmares and dream that they charged me and that I was tried before a frightening court which passed a death sentence on me. Then I jump out of bed scared." He said that after his acquittal, release, and return home "my wife fainted when she saw me."

This came in a long interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. It is his first interview with an Arab publication after his acquittal by U.S. security and investigation organs. He spoke in detail about the terrible nightmare he experienced in the 48 hours that followed the explosion.

He spoke about the stages of his interrogation in Chicago, London, and Washington. He described the way he was treated by British interrogators as "humiliating and violating human dignity." He said: "The interrogators stripped me of my clothes, and I stayed completely naked for about four minutes. They refused to provide any food or to allow me to contact my family in Jordan to reassure them." He described U.S. interrogators in Chicago and Washington as "refined and polite, even though one or two immigration officials mistreated me a little."

Ibrahim, who is a Jordanian American, said that he hopes that the Arabs will seize this opportunity to eliminate the impression of Arabs and Muslims from the minds of public opinion. He said that he hopes that the Americans will understand that "terrorism has no home or identity and is not Arab- or Muslim-made, since Arabs and Muslims too are victims of terrorism."

He added that he experienced some moments in which he thought the world had ended, as far as he was concerned, "despite my absolute belief and confidence in God and my belief that I was innocent—which was proved later despite some media services' decision that I was the prime suspect before the official services concerned had stated anything."

Ibrahim Ahmad said that the 48-hour nightmare he experienced between the three cities ended with an apology from the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) men. He expressed his sadness and pain for the victims, saying: I love this country (the United States) and the fate-stricken city in which I live.

Crown Prince, Commander Receive Pakistani Military Team

JN2504192195 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan today received a delegation from the Pakistani Air War College led by Brigadier General (Zulfiqar Asha).

During the meeting, his highness reviewed the situation in the region in general, as well as Jordanian-Pakistani relations and ways to enhance and promote them in various fields. The meeting was attended by Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Salamah al-Huwayyan, acting chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Major General Humayd al-Fayiz, military adviser to his majesty the king; the commander of the Royal War College; the Pakistani ambassador; and the Pakistani military attache in Amman.

Staff Lt. Gen. al-Huwayyan received in his office at the General Command the Pakistani Air War College delegation. During the meeting, they reviewed the aspects of cooperation and coordination in various military fields. The guest delegation then listened to a military briefing on the Armed Forces' development and organization.

The meeting was attended by a number of assistants to the chief of staff, the chief of staff of the Royal Air Force, and the Pakistani military attache in Amman.

Crown Prince Receives European Troika Delegation

JN2504165895 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has held talks with visiting European troika delegation headed by Mr. (Bernard Brak).

During the meeting, his royal highness and the troika delegation discussed the ties between Jordan and the European Union [EU] countries. His highness also dwelt on ways of supporting counties of moderate policy line worldwide and especially in the Middle East through cooperation to build up regional peace and to let the citizens of the area reap the dividends of peace.

Mr. Brak spoke about the European strategy based on partnership either on international or bilateral levels. He valued highly the EU-Jordanian ties in all fields.

The discussion also focused on the Middle East development plan through political, economic, social, and security dimensions. The EU team expressed hope that 1995 will be the year of working hand-in-hand for building the aspired for peace in the region.

EC Exclusion from Amman Economic Summit Protested

JN2604091295 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 26 Apr pp 1, 19

[Report by 'Umar Kallab]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some European ambassadors have expressed their dismay because Europe was excluded from taking part in and preparing for the Amman economic summit which will be held at the end of October.

The French ambassador in Amman said the EC is ready to finance any investment project in Jordan after studying its economic feasibility and that the EC has decided to offer $11 billion for investment in the region. However, he added, we sense that Europe is being excluded and we ask: Whose interest does this exclusion serve?

This came in a dinner banquet the French ambassador held for European ambassadors the day before yesterday. The banquet was attended by a ranking parliamentary delegation.

The EC ambassadors wondered about the insistence on excluding Europe from preparations for the economic summit. In order to give an example, the EC ambassadors referred to a meeting held by the preparatory committee and chaired by the Jordanian minister of industry and trade for the first few minutes. After delivering his speech, the Jordanian minister left and the U.S. delegation presided over the meeting.

An ambassador said that the United States wants Europe to be a financier only and not take part in formulating and studying projects that require funding, thus, without clarifying Europe's role in these investments.

A ranking parliamentary source said that the European ambassadors' remarks were conveyed to his majesty the king by the House of Representatives speaker during a special meeting yesterday.

House member 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali said that the absence of a European participatory role will not be in Jordan's interest.

The Financial Committee at the House of Representatives decided to hold a special meeting to discuss this issue and to put the representatives in the picture. The meeting will be attended by the minister of industry and trade and the minister of water and irrigation.

Hisham al-Dabbas, head of the Financial Committee, questioned the nature of Jordan's participation in the meetings on developing the Jordan Rift Valley, adding that the Jordanian economic delegation was a mere observer.

He asked: Why is the Financial Committee being excluded from these meetings? Al-Dabbas added: The absence of an active parliamentary and governmental participation will weaken our stand before others is such meetings. Al-Dabbas also questioned the expense of these meetings, which was a factor in the absence of many. He said that it would have been better if the government paid the expxenses of the Financial Committee and for some government figures taking part in this meeting. He added: We should also know who benefits from the participation fee. Is it us as organizers or the organizing private companies? It is noteworthy that the fee to participate in the symposium on developing the Jordan Rift Valley is 400 Jordanian dinars per person.

Hizballah Launches Suicide Attack on Israeli Position

NC2504144995 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, April 25 (AFP)—Hizballah guerrillas launched a "suicide operation" against an Israeli position in south Lebanon on Tuesday [25 April], a spokesman for the Moslem fundamentalist group said here.

The spokesman said commandos carried out the attack near a barracks in Bint Jubayl inside the Israeli-occupied security zone.

Security sources in south Lebanon said a "loud explosion" rocked the area.

'Large Number' of Casualties Reported

NC2504163595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1539 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] REUTER has cited security sources that nine Israeli soldiers were injured this afternoon in an explosion in Bint Jubayl.

Hizballah later claimed responsibility for the explosion. A statement issued by the Islamic Resistance said that the operation was carried out against an occupation force convoy as it arrived at the Israeli civilian administration building in Bint Jubayl. It added that the explosion destroyed the convoy and killed and wounded a large number of Israeli troops.

At around 1700 today, a resistance group planted two devices on the al-Tirah road, destroying two occupation forces vehicles. The Israeli forces in Jabal Humayid and Bra'shit immediately shelled the outskirts of Bra'shit, al-Jumayjimah, Tibnin, Haddathah, and Haris while helicopters flew at low altitude.

The Islamic Resistance had earlier said that its artillery support unit fired at the occupation forces' assembly point outside al-Rayhan, scoring directly hits.

Al-Nur Radio just reported that the Islamic Resistance's suicide operation in occupied Bint Jubayl targeted the civil administration building in the town and a number of tanks and vehicles in front of the building. It added that the civilian administration building was destroyed.

Ten Israelis, 20 Lebanese Said Wounded

NC2504194795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A security source in the south reports that 10 Israeli soldiers were wounded, three in critical condition, in the first suicide attack since 1986 carried out by Hizballah on an Israeli military convoy in Bint Jubayl Town. The source said 20 Lebanese people, including two of Lahd's personnel [South Lebanese Army] were wounded by this operation and also when four Katyusha rockets landed in the same area afterward. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent says the charge was placed inside a Honda Accord driven by a bearded young man and that debris from the car scattered hundreds of meters away.

Hizballah Radio Details Suicide Attack

NC2604073095 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Report by Samir 'Alamah; live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance strongly shook the security of the Zionist enemy when one of its martyrdom-seeking mujahidin, in a booby-trapped car, bombed the building of the Zionist Army's Western Brigade and the civil administration building in Bint Jubayl. The enemy, extremely tense after the daring operation, reported it only several hours after it happened and tried its best to downplay its importance and results. But a Zionist military spokesman stated that the bomb was estimated to contain 250 kg of explosive material and left a crater 3 meters in diameter and 1.5 meters deep.

The results of the operation were massive. The civil administration building was destroyed and the building of the Western Brigade command was extensively damaged. Five vehicles were burned and many soldiers were killed or wounded. The enemy prevented correspondents from reaching the scene of the operation, blocking the road between Bint Jubayl and 'Ayn Ibil for about two hours. The occupation forces and their Agents in the region were placed on alert.

According to the latest details about the operation, while a convoy of enemy vehicles was in the yard of the Zionist civil administration building and the Western Brigade command, the martyrdom-seeking mujahid stormed the complex, turning the civil administration building into rubble and the vehicles into ashes. Two vehicles disintegrated and three others caught fire. According to eyewitnesses, the bodies of Zionist soldiers were thrown far from the scene, lying where they fell for quite some time because of concentrated Islamic Resistance mujahidin artillery shelling that targeted the area of the operation.

In its statement on the blessed martyrdom operation, the Islamic Resistance said a martyrdom-seeking mujahid, calmly and assuredly, stormed two Zionist convoys at 1620 yesterday. One of the convoys had just arrived from occupied Palestine to replace the other convoy, which was about to leave. The operation took place at the entrance to Headquarters 17, which includes the Western Brigade command building, the civil administration building, and the Zionist intelligence command building. The explosion partially destroyed the civil administration building and extensively damaged the Western Brigade building. Five vehicles were destroyed in the operation, two of them disintegrating.

The Islamic Resistance statement added that many Zionist soldier's bodies were scattered in the area of the explosion, which was heard far away in the occupied border strip and the nearby liberated areas. [passage omitted]

Nasrallah Threatens To Attack Israeli Settlements

NC2604063295 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0520 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Address by Hizballah Secretary General al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah following an Islamic Resistance mujahid operation on 25 April; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [Words indistinct]. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. First, I would like to address greetings to the soul of our great martyr, which rose to its creator today to achieve the objective and aspirations and [words indistinct]. This martyr's heart was always imbued with the desire for this kind of end. Greetings to his soul and to his body, dismembered for the sake of God so that he would be a sacrifice for this nation and this mission.

Greetings to this great martyr who (?served) this nation with his pure blood and jihad. He has lifted the head of our nation high. We will announce his name soon, God willing. He will be a source of pride to all this nation's sons, peoples, and mujahidin. This martyr, who has revitalized [words indistinct], who stormed the convoys, fortifications, and strongholds and [word indistinct]. Greetings to all the honorable mujahidin of the Islamic Resistance who are deployed on the confrontation lines. Our mujahidin are extremely proud and feel stronger than ever, challenging the tyrants of the oppressors and occupation forces. You are planting your feet and keeping your heads high. Greetings to those who are preparing themselves with every ounce of defiance, sacrifice, and confrontation, confident of the victory promised to you by your God and of the victory that is being created by your guns and fists.

Greetings to our noble and honorable people in south Lebanon, western al-Biqa', and Palestine. Greetings to this people who produced those martyrs and mujahidin. Dear Brothers, I do not want to talk much because we have a rendezvous soon, God willing, with the martyr and the great operation carried out today [as heard]. But I am dutybound to say that following the heavy losses inflicted on the Israeli enemy and the severe panic currently gripping the enemy leaders and soldiers, I urge all the mujahidin in the Islamic Resistance to declare a full and maximum state of alert on every confrontation line in the south and western al-Biqa' as a precaution against any challenge and reaction that the enemy might resort to regarding the great defeat inflicted on the enemy troops by our great martyr today. I also urge our mujahidin to be fully prepared to confront these contingencies and check any bestial aggression that the enemy might carry out against our villages and civilians. Our mujahidin are urged to be prepared to receive orders to bombard the settlements if the enemy wishes to avenge the death of his soldiers against our civilians. We are fighting the enemy with our fighters and mujahidin and blood.

I tell this enemy that I warn him against any mistake or aggression against our people. Otherwise your civilians will not be safe, as we told you before and have repeated often. We are proud of our martyr and his suicide operation, which we present as a gift to our martyrs [words indistinct] to martyr Rida Yasin, the Hamas and Islamic Jihad martyrs in Gaza, and all the suicide operations. We present it as a gift to all the martyrs of the nation. More suicide operations will be carried out until victory is achieved, the sun of this nation rises, and the star of this enemy, who is occupying our land and the holy places, fades. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Israeli Reinforcements Reported in South

NC2604110695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tension reigns on the combat lines in the south and Western al-Biqa' as a result of the Israeli attacks. The occupation forces sent reinforcements to the western and central sectors. Eighteen troop carriers were spotted entering the Humayd and Rshaf positions today.

Foreign Ministry: Turkey Withdrawing From Iraq

JN2504180095 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1725 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 25 Apr (SANA)—A responsible Foreign Ministry source has stated the following:

The Turkish Government has informed us that it has decided to withdraw 20,000 of its troops that entered northern Iraq. The total number of Turkish troops that have withdrawn so far thus totals 25,000, and only 12,000 are left in northern Iraq.

Justice Minister Meets Iranian Prosecutor on Ties

LD2604075895 Tehran IRNA in English 0527 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, April 26, IRNA—The visiting Iranian public prosecutor, Ayatollah Moqtada'i, here Tuesday [25 April] said Iran always seeks peace and tranquility across the world.

Ayatollah Moqtada'i made the remark in a meeting with Syrian Justice Minister Husayn Hassun.

Lauding Iran's support for Muslim countries, Hassun termed the stance as an honor for the entire Muslim world.

The Syrian minister expressed hope for broadening of Tehran-Damascus judicial cooperation within the framework of Islamic rules.

Furthermore, he added, what is going on in the Middle East under the so-called Gaza-Jericho deal has brought nothing except humiliation for Muslims.

Moqtada'i lauded Syrian position regarding the compromise deal.

Planning Minister, UK Counterpart Hold Talks

JN2604061795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs, today received the Viscount Ullswater, British minister for construction and planning at the British Department of Environment. The British minister is accompanied by a team from British construction firms currently visiting Damascus with the aim of strengthening the economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. The British ambassador in Damascus and the commercial attache attended.

Discussion during the meeting revolved around the development of ties and aspects of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries and the means to achieve that within the context of the programs of cooperation with the EU.

Following the meeting, a round of Syrian-British talks was held at the State Planning Commission. The talks were cochaired by Dr. al-Subay'i and Ullswater and attended by heads of departments at the State Planning Commission, members of the British delegation, and the British ambassador in Damascus.

Discussion touched on the activities and tasks of the planning agencies and the achievements of the state's economic and social development programs in the various fields and sectors.

The British minister inquired about the possible aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the field of the construction industry and the best means and ways to achieve that goal.

Commentary Questions Israel's Peace Intentions

JN2404155895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1144 GMT 24 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Anyone who observes Israel's behavior and actions on the ground and compares them to the statements made and stands adopted by its officials will come to the conclusion that there is a contradiction between words and deeds. Israeli officials are trying to portray themselves as peace advocates and, in return, are portraying Syria as the one who is obstructing the peace process and wasting time. On the ground, however, Israel is continuing its daily attacks on southern Lebanon; is imposing a naval siege on the southern Lebanese coast; is exercising repression, torture, and terrorism against Palestinian citizens in the occupied Arab territories; and is continuing the building of settlements considered by the entire world, including the U.S. cosponsor, as obstacles in the path of peace.

If we go beyond these daily practices and try to delve into the depth of Israel's mentality regarding the overall peace process, we see that through this process, Israel wants to achieve many demands that contradict the bases of the desired peace and UN resolutions. Israel wants secure borders according to its own concept of such borders. It also wants these secure borders to be at the expense of Arab territories and rights. Accordingly, these borders require security arrangements to which only the others should be committed even if these arrangements encroach on the sovereignty and dignity of those others. Israel wants open borders; diplomatic relations; cooperation in the economic, cultural, technical, environmental, water, transportation, and tourism fields; and is after issues of the like that represent the long-term results of peace and not preludes to it. Above all, Israel continues to announce that it is not ready to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 borders and that it is not ready for balanced [mutawazinah] and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements on both sides of the borders that guarantee security for all and provide tranquility and stability in the region.

In addition to all this, Israel—which is armed to the teeth with the most sophisticated weapons and which has been carrying out aggressions against the Arabs for a quarter of a century—still believes that it has to maintain, develop, and increase the size of its military arsenal. Indeed, it also believes that it has to reinforce its nuclear arsenal, which it calls the nuclear deterrent weapon. Moreover, Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is nothing but a challenge to the international community's willpower and a confirmation of its anti- peace intentions.

Anyone who wants peace does not build up an Army and train it to wage wars. Someone who wants peace does not carry out daily attacks against a free, independent, and sovereign country. Furthermore, someone who wants peace does not reject commitment to the UN resolutions adopted by the international community as a basis for the peace process.

None of Israel's actions give the impression that it is serious in its talk about peace. If Israel's officials are trying to convince the world of their true peace intentions through talk about weak agreements they signed with certain parties, then such talk will not convince anyone. This is because these agreements did not bring peace to the region and to the parties that signed them and because Israel continues to avoid implementing the provisions of these agreements, as fragile as they are.

There is no doubt that the path of a just and comprehensive peace is not the path that Israel wants and which was chosen by the parties who signed the separate deals. The path of peace begins with a commitment to UN resolutions, passes through a full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders, and ends with an announcement on the termination of the state of war in the region.

Daily Urges Clear Nonaligned Position on NPT

JN2604082395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary entitled "The Bandung Anniversary and the Required Position," AL-THAWRAH says: From the deliberations and the various secret and public stands emerging in the New York conference on reviewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], one can deduce that Western states that are occupying the larger part of the scene in the new world order are seeking to provide excuses for Israel's refusal to sign the NPT and to open its installations to international inspection. These influential states are also exercising pressure against several other states under the pretext that they have nuclear programs, despite the fact that they are committed to open their installations to strict supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The same influential states ignore Israel's nuclear weapons, which the Israeli officials are no longer afraid of talking about under the pretext of nuclear deterrence and intimidating and pressuring the region.

AL-THAWRAH notes that Western intentions are not good or sincere about this critical and sensitive issue, which constitutes a strategic threat, not only against the region, but also against the entire world.

AL-THAWRAH says: Keeping an Israeli monopoly on nuclear weapons in the region is an unbalanced attitude toward the peoples of the region who have displayed readiness for a full commitment to the treaty, if it covers Israel and if no one is kept outside the control and supervision of the known international agencies and institutions.

AL-THAWRAH refers to what President Hafiz al-Asad has in his letter to Indonesia's President Suharto on the anniversary of the Afro-Asian conference in Bandung which gave birth to the Nonaligned Movement. President al-Asad called for a truly universal NPT without exempting any party. He also warned that any exemption will undermine that treaty and foil its objectives, and will, therefore, open the doors wide open for an arms race that will threaten the entire world community.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Undoubtedly, the Nonaligned Movement constitutes the bigger part of the parties to the dialogue in New York. The voting of its members will have the biggest role in determining the fate of the NPT. This will give the movement's role an exceptional importance to face one of the most dangerous products of the new world order. No doubts can be cast on such a role if the Nonaligned Movement knew how to strengthen its role and activate its positions in a way to translate the strength of its principles on the ground. A few days ago, the Nonaligned Movement celebrated the Bandung Conference, which set forth 10 principles on which the Nonaligned Movement was based. President al-Asad has urged the use of this anniversary to achieve further solidarity and rallying behind the Bandung principles to confront the challenges and threats, to strengthen abidance by the UN Charter, and to ensure democracy in the international relations and end the double standards policy.

Afghanistan

Taleban Reportedly Close Kabul-Qandahar Highway

LD2504183395 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taleban have closed the Kabul-Qandahar highway entirely. Reports received by Radio Message of Freedom say: The Taleban have now totally closed the Kabul-Qandahar highway. They do not allow food and fuel to get to Kabul. Quoting a senior source of the Taleban it has been said that they have closed the highway because the Kabul administration uses the fuel to supply its armed forces, and store the food in depots to avoid food shortages among its fighting men. They say that the reason for their decision is to bring pressure to bear on the illegal Kabul administration to accept their demands.

Hekmatyar Holds News Conferences on Regional Issues

Urges Free Elections

LD2104182895 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] I will continue my struggle for the establishment of an Islamic government in the same way as I keep up my prayer. This point was stated to domestic and foreign journalists yesterday by brother Hekmatyar, leader of the country's Islamic revolution, in the course of a news conference in Jalalabad city.

The reporter of the Radio Message of Freedom reports that in reply to a question, brother Hekmatyar said: As a Muslim I will continue my struggle for the establishment of an Islamic government the same way as I keep up my prayer. We in the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] believe in elections and I emphasize the need to call elections in the country. In reply to a question regarding the solution of the country's problems, brother Hekmatyar said: Above all, a provisional government must be set up after an understanding is reached between between all jehadi groups. Such a government must comprise jehadi personalities and individuals who have no party links. Restoring security to the cities, clearing cities of armed men, organizing armed men in army units, calling free elections, and transferring power to an elected council must be the duty of this government.

In reply to another question, the leader of the Islamic revolution said: Regrettably, the Kabul administration has never kept any of its promises. Even if occasionally something is promised, due to pressure or threat, it is broken as soon as the pressure is relaxed.

Brother Hekmatyar added: I met Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani in [word indistinct] and discussed issues relevant to the solution of the country's problems. However, I have not met Shaykh Mohammad Asef Mohseni. I do not think Mohseni is able to do anything as a mediator. Together with the men and equipment of Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement], he is serving the Kabul administration and defending this administration with all his ability.

Views Resolving Present 'Crisis'

LD2504160195 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 24 Apr 95

[Report on news conference by Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dear listeners, some time ago brother [Golboddin] Hekmatyar, leader of the Islamic revolution of the country, gave a news conference which was attended by domestic and foreign correspondents. In this section of the program we draw your attention to the second part of the conference. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful:

Question: After recent changes the policy of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] has been noncooperation with the belligerent sides. It was expected that some contacts would be made to resolve the problems through their natural channels. We saw that those efforts did not bear fruit, and it has also been seen that some inclinations among the belligerent sides [words indistinct] do not comply with the policy of Hezb-e Eslami on the basis of which we can side with one or another party in the future. What is the third road which can rid us of the present situation?

Answer: Unfortunately some groups and parties are of the opinion that they can rule the Afghans by force and with the assistance of the foreigners. Their acts have given rise to a perception that apart from fighting there is no other way to defend the interests of the nation and to establish a government that is acceptable to all. Whereas experience has shown that no one can rule the Afghans by force. The occupation of Kabul and the establishment of a government linked to the foreigners have been experienced many times. [passage omitted]

No one can rule Afghanistan through conspiracies nor can they by force, nor by fanning tribal and racial prejudices, nor by raising the question of Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, and Uzbek. If they abandon this view and accept first the establishment of an interim government through understanding to put an end to the fighting and the solution of the crisis [words indistinct]. But a government that is acceptable to all, a government for the cessation of war and made of sincere [words indistinct] elements and those who are not associated with the parties, but not those who are on the list of [UN envoy] Mestiri—individuals who can be trusted by the political parties too. And the power will be transferred to them. And after the restoration of peace and security and the consolidation of the government, general elections will be held. They should accept as a principle that henceforward our governments will be elected ones. Otherwise we will be drawn into a prolonged armed conflict. No one can rule Afghanistan through the occupation of Kabul. [passage omitted]

The Taleban should accept too that they made a mistake. Otherwise if they had acted as conciliators the present crisis would have been resolved in the first week. If they had come to us and said to us that they wanted to put an end to the war and would side with those who were right, the Kabul fighting would have ceased on the first week of their arrival at the doors of Kabul. But they thought they could capture the country by force. [passage omitted]

Question: A few days ago Dr. 'Abdorrahman [associate of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud] met with General Dostam in Uzbekistan where he asked him to join Mas'ud. If Dostam joins the Kabul administration, what will be its effect on the Coordination Council?

Answer: Rabbani and Mas'ud have several times contacted us—with Hezb's delegations—and have sent tribal elders hoping to achieve an agreement on [word indistinct]. They have also said: we have no conflict with Hezb-e Eslami, help us against the Taleban. But they never stood by their words, they started the offensive in the past and have broken their promises. While they are weaker than in the past how could they dare to embark on a battle against Hezb-e Eslami. [words indistinct] They have sent delegations to the north of the country, they asked the Russians to mediate between them and Dostam. So far as we know a senior Russian delegation has held talks with Dostam on this issue. It is alleged that they were asked to mediate between Dostam and Mas'ud. [words indistinct]

After this delegation, a delegation arrived from India and went to Mazar-e Sharif with a similar message. Then later Dr. Abdorrahman in the company of an Uzbek delegation met with Dostam. And our information is that they have told him that they have no conflict with the [National and Islamic] Movement, and that their only problem is with Hezb. They asked him to revive the previous alliance. They have told similar things to a visiting Iranian delegation too. But no one trusts them. I do not think that General Dostam would like to join them again. [words indistinct] Because their words cannot be taken seriously. I do not think he will leave the High Coordination Council. So far it seems that he stands firmly by his words, and considers the High Coordination Council a necessity—something that is in his interest and in the interest of his country. He may not like to leave it. I do not think the confident trench of the High Coordination Council's members will disintegrate.

Question: How long will Hezb-e Eslami be waiting?

Answer: Our stance is, if we want to make a decision in this respect, it will be a decision made by the High Coordination Council. Then we will be taking into account conditions that are good for Islam and the country. To put an end to the war and to establish an Islamic government depend on whether anyone is interested in those factors. So far we have not entered any agreement with any side, nor have we taken a decision on joining any side. We are waiting, and when we make a decision it will be the one which is in the interests of the whole nation. We will be telling them to be patient [as heard]. We notice that the situation has changed much over the past seven months. It will be, God willing, better than this, and we will be taking a decision at an appropriate time. You can find organizations that have waited for ages. Waiting is a stance by itself. The Council discussed it and weighed both sides and eventually decided, unanimously and jointly, that we would wait. Waiting does not mean neutrality or indifference or forgetting the problem. The initiative has been with Hezb-e Eslami for many years, and it is so now too. This is an initiative too. If you ask the people they will tell you that it is an intelligent act by Hezb-e Eslami. Sympathy with it has increased as a result. Even the people who used to be against the Hezb and suspected the Hezb have changed their position. Surely it is an initiative not neutrality or indifference.

Question: Engineer, how long will this silence continue?

Answer: As I said before it is not silence. Our radio is on the air, our newspaper is published, and we too speak about our stance. The Hezb and its allies have decided that to make a final decision we will need some more time. So far this has produced good results. We wait to see further developments [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Question: Your previous stance was that an interim government with the participation of all parties should be established. Now on top of the two previous sides there is another group which demands general disarmament [words indistinct]. Is there any sign that they will accept the proposal of establishing an interim government?

Answer: I think [words indistinct] will accept this proposal. They have no option but to accept this. The Taleban and others will eventually be obliged to accept this proposal and agree upon the establishment of a non-party interim government which is acceptable to all parties. There is no other solution. I believe that after fighting the war, they have realized that they cannot impose on the people [words indistinct]. Now the Taleban have also become another party and one of the political parties has merged with them. The Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolution Movement] has joined this group entirely. [passage omitted]

They [Taleban] have failed to remain as a third and conciliatory group. Unfortunately, they entered into clashes. They also tried fighting and could not achieve the result they wanted from it. Eventually the two parties freshly engaged in the fighting will have to abandon fighting and agree upon an interim government. Rabbani and Mas'ud will also eventually learn that they have not been able to remove their opponents from the scene but due to their wrong policies they have lost the support of those who were their allies. The three fronts against them became four, i.e., a new front added to them. This means that their problems increase every day. At the beginning they thought that only Hezb-e Eslami was against them, and once it was crushed they would control the situation. The enemies too wanted Hezb-e Eslami to be removed from the scene first, and they chose the same path, to oust the Hezb from the scene. [passage omitted]

Question: A few days ago Qazi Hoseyn Ahmad came over here to meet you. Could you please give some information in this respect?

Answer: Qazi Hoseyn Ahmad has helped our jihad very much and has suffered hardships for it. He has done everything he could for the restoration of peace. I think when Ustad Rabbani was on a visit to Islamabad, he asked the esteemed Qazi during a meeting with him to render some help in connection with peace.

Mojadeddi: No Iranian Meddling in Internal Affairs

LD2004133495 Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Apr. 20, IRNA—Former Afghan President Sebghatollah Mojadeddi said Wednesday [19 April] that Iran and Pakistan had never meddled in the internal affairs of Afghanistan but accused some other countries of doing so.

Addressing a press conference here, he did not specify the "other countries," he accused of providing military assistance to the nominal government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

However, he warned of disclosing the name of that country if it continued to interfere in the internal matters of his country.

Mojadeddi, leader of main opposition alliance, Supreme Coordination Council Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan (SCCIRA) demanded Pakistan, Iran and the United Nations to sever diplomatic relations with "illegitimate" Afghan Government led by his successor Rabbani.

SCCIRA groups Hezb-e Eslami-ye [Islamic Party] led by Golboddin Hekmatyar, National Islamic Movement of North Afghanistan led by Uzbek war-lord General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam and Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat-e [Islamic Unity Party] led by Ustad Karim Khalili besides Mojadeddi's National Liberation Front.

Mojadeddi held Rabbani responsible for the ongoing fighting in war-torn Afghanistan.

"We as component of SCCIRA have been trying to convince Rabbani to transfer power to a representative committee," Mojadeddi said adding that the U.N. peace plan could be implemented only if Rabbani stepped down.

He said Iran, Pakistan and the free world had an important role to play in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

To a question, he said there was no need of deploying U.N. peacekeeping forces in Afghanistan. Rather an intra-Afghan force should be raised to restore peace and order in that lawless country, he noted.

About Taleban, he said they were sincere people but had committed some mistakes.

He said SCCIRA strongly supported every effort which guaranteed lasting peace and security in Afghanistan.

India

Rao Calls for 'Closer Partnership' With U.S.

BK2604022495 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has called for building a closer partnership in every walk of life between India and the United States. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao was talking to U.S. congressman Mr. Charlie Rose who called on him in New Delhi today. The prime minister said interaction between members of the Indian Parliament and of the U.S. Congress should be encouraged. Mr. Rose complimented India for its economic reforms. Mr. Rose is a Democratic congressman from North Carolina.

The U.S. congressman also called on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khursheed. Mr. Khursheed briefed him on the Kashmir issue and expressed the hope that the U.S. Congress would continue its efforts to prevent state-sponsored terrorism. The minister said state-sponsored terrorism was the root of the problem in Kashmir.

Commentary Claims U.S. 'Often Condoned' Terrorism

BK2604113195 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Commentary by D.R. Rajagopal: "Terrorism Spreads its Tentacles"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The recent Oklahoma blast in which at least 80 persons died with another 200 persons missing takes terrorism to the heart of America, where there had always been a complacent feeling about such depradations with the lot of the poorer people in less secure societies. This tragedy which shook the state is one of the deadliest bomb attacks on the U.S. soil, which even surpasses similar attack on the New York World Trade Center in 1993. These attacks have naturally shattered an American's sense of security and safety and obviously outraged and disturbed President Bill Clinton, [who] appalled by the brutal act in his own backyard has spiritedly pledged to decimate the evil cowards by awarding speedy, swift, and severe punishment based on the due process of law and justice.

The fact that the two great powers like Japan and America in the current history have been the targets of terrorist attacks in the last few weeks focuses attention on the ugly face of terrorism spreading its tentacles in almost all the parts of the world. Earlier, in the past few decades, the other parts of the world like Beirut, Bombay, Belfast, Kabul, Karachi, Kashmir, Rome, London, and Sri Lanka have all emerged as centers of terrorism. Unfortunately, the pangs and trauma of the people of these countries were not taken seriously by Americans so much. As now the two attacks in two years have shaken the faith of people in America about some of its own agencies [word indistinct] in supporting, aiding, and masterminding the acts of terrorism in different parts of the world. The American society, which chooses to call itself as the most civilized society in the world, has very often condoned these acts, which were inimical to civilized and democratic believes, because it was presumed that these acts would achieve some political objectives, especially during the Cold War era. It was more so against containing communism in other parts of the world.

The act of terrorism, which renders citizens helpless against sudden attacks and blasts, underlies the basic folly of encouraging terrorism. It seems America has begun to pay a gruesome price for the poison it injected into the various lengthy terrorist campaigns in West Asia, Middle East, and Southeast Asia, including India. America has used some of its lackeys like Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence—ISI—for sponsoring terrorism in India, particularly in Punjab and Kashmir. This agency of Pakistan is completely controlled by its armed forces and its objective is to paralyze the lifestyle and topple the administration in various parts of the country. ISI has been the principal destructive force for the cruel war in neighboring Afghanistan, also which is still continuing unabatedly in that country. Besides gun running, these terrorists had also been the main actors in the drug running, which is the most dependable source of funding for their covert and overt operations.

In any event, acts of international terrorism are atrocious and psychologically shocking. All terrorism, be it state-sponsored as is obvious in the case of Pakistan, is nothing but political backmail in one form or another. The evil forces of terrorism emanating from the womb of fundamentalism of all hues and colors are a clear danger to mankind. The civilized world, including the great powers of the world, should now heed to the warning signals of terrorism, which have started spreading its claws even to the rich and developed societies. One hopes that the anxiety and indignation experienced by millions of people all over the world over the years may now compel and force America to take corrective measures to eliminate the menace of terrorism from all parts of the globe. Only the combined will and determination of all the civilized societies and states can effectively tackle the evil of terrorism.

Reportage of Colombian Foreign Minister's Visit

Urges Global Antidrug Effort

BK2204141395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombia has called upon the international community to draw up a global strategy to combat the menace of drug trafficking and related crimes. Addressing newspersons in New Delhi yesterday, the Colombian foreign minister, [Dr.] Rodrigo Pardo Garcia-Pena, said such a strategy should involve all countries where its production and consumption are prevalent.

He said his country will be negotiating an agreement of cooperation with India in the peaceful use of atomic energy. Dr. Rodrigo also signed an agreement on annual consultation with the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khursheed.

Earlier, he called on the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, and discussed bilateral issues and matters relating to the forthcoming NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit to be held in Colombia in October.

Confers With Rao

BK2304070995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has said that the nonaligned summit to be held in Colombia in October this year should focus on economic issues and social problems facing the developing countries. Mr. Narasimha Rao said there is enough talent in NAM [Nonaligned Movement] to guide the summit in the direction which will be beneficial to member countries. He expressed these views to the visiting Colombian foreign minister, Mr. Rodrigo Pardo [Garcia-Pena], who called on him in New Delhi today.

The Colombian minister held discussions with Mr. Rao on matters regarding the forthcoming summit. Mr. Rao offered all cooperation and assistance to Colombia for the conduct of the summit. Mr. Pardo said drug trafficking is one of the major problems facing the developing nations. The prime minister agreed that the issue should be discussed at the NAM summit.

Minister Concerned Over Pakistan's Naval Buildup

BK2004135895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has expressed concern over Pakistan acquiring modern naval capability far in excess of its legitimate requirements. The minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, said this not only poses a threat to India's maritime interests but will also adversely affect the naval balance in the region. He said New Delhi has to take suitable counter measures to meet the situation. Mr. Mallikarjun was addressing the naval commanders conference in New Delhi today.

Rao Comments on PRC Talks, Criticizes Pakistan

BK2204104195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has called upon the defense forces to remain on guard in view of continued anti-Indian activities by Pakistan.

Addressing the combined commanders conference in New Delhi today, Mr. Narasimha Rao observed that Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty has failed to check proliferation as is evident from the clandestine activities by Pakistan to acquire nuclear weapons capability. Mr. Rao regretted that there is no meaningful response from Islamabad to India's standing offer for a bilateral dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues. Mr. Rao said Pakistan is in an untenable position in its relationship with India because of domestic and other compulsions.

The prime minister asserted that India's relations with all its neighbors will continue to be cordial and cooperative. Referring to China, Mr. Rao said an expert group and the joint working group of the two countries are going into the boundary question to seek a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable solution.

Minister Discusses Aircraft Deal for Air Force

BK2504074495 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 20 Apr 95 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi—Commercial negotiations for acquisition of 68 advanced jet trainer [AJT] aircraft for the Indian Air Force have begun, the Government said on Wednesday [19 April], indicating that the purse strings have finally been loosened.

The signal that the IAF's [Indian Air Force's] ten-year-old demand for an advanced jet trainer may now be close to fruition came from the Minister of State for Defence, Mr Mallikarjun, in his address to air commanders.

The Government "has taken steps to commence negotiations for acquisition of advanced jet trainer for the IAF", he said, breaking a long silence over the issue.

In what will turn out to be the country's biggest deal since the Bofors Howitzer in 1986, the Rs 500 crore AJT deal is being bitterly fought by the British Hawk 100 and the French Alpha jet. Both have cleared the technical evaluation phase, in line with air staff requirements. The Hawk, thanks to high-powered lobbying led by the British Prime Minister, Mr John Major, continues to be the front-runner.

Following last year's Cabinet approval for commencing commercial negotiations with the two contenders, the MOD [Ministry of Defense] is now understood to have reached the final stage of negotiations. A price negotiating committee, (PNC) has been set up to conduct the final round of discussions. The deal is being monitored at the highest levels in view of its sensitive nature.

IAF, wiser after its experience with Jaguar and other acquisitions has insisted on complete technology transfer so that Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's huge infrastructure and expertise can be made use of.

More heartening for the IAF was Mr Mallikarjun's categorical declaration that the Government would release funds "for meeting the urgent and operational requirements" of the Air Force. Reflecting the sense of urgency, he told the IAF commanders that a number of steps have been taken to "streamline the decision-making process in the Ministry of Defence".

The Minister's unexpected assurance of funds and quick decisions comes less than a week after fresh efforts by Pakistan to acquire its held-up F-16 fighter aircraft. The Clinton Administration in the course of Mrs Benazir Bhutto's visit has expressed desire to get the Pressler amendment modified, with a view to resolve the impasse over the F-16s.

Indications are that at least 10 air defence aircraft MiG 29 would be inducted into the IAF this summer as part of fleet renewal. IAF has simultaneously indicated its interest in the long range Su-30 fighter.

The minister said that the MiG-21 upgrade programme is also under negotiations. While the contract for upgrading the IAF's workhorse, the MiG-21 Bis has already gone to the Russian builders, MAPO, avionics are to be farmed out to Western vendor, including possibly the Israelis.

Mr Mallikarjun, aware of the anxiety among field commanders said that every effort was being made to ensure that MiG-21 Bis upgrade programme goes according to the schedule. The upgraded aircraft are expected to see the IAF through 2020, by which time the indigenous Light Combat aircraft should have entered service.

Iran

Intelligence Chief Reportedly Defects to U.S.

NC2604132095 Cairo SABAH AL-KHAYR in Arabic 20 Apr 95 pp 16-17

[Report by Ahmad Nasr in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] SABAH AL-KHAYR has obtained a scoop on the escape of Iranian intelligence chief 'Ali Fallahi [name as published] and his arrival in Washington from a European city a few days ago. He disappeared in Tehran over three weeks ago. The Iranian intelligence chief, who used to take his victims to unknown destinations, was himself in an unknown place until he recently reached Washington.

Important sources told a SABAH AL-KHAYR correspondent in Washington that the arrival of 'Ali Fallahi in Washington was a major surprise, especially as he was the most prominent figure at the Iranian Revolutionary Guard during the U.S. Embassy hostage-taking operation in Tehran. He was also the closest to Khomeyni and to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard groups. He personally followed up Iran's terrorist operations abroad, whether assassination of opponents, such as the killing of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar in Paris, or other terrorist operations against many vital installations and individuals, such as the bombing of the Jewish-Argentine Friendship Society in Buenos Aires.

The sources noted that secrecy was imposed on the escape of the Iranian intelligence chief, whether by the Iranian Government or by other governments, which wanted to give elements from the Iranian intelligence agency who supervised acts of international terrorism the chance to escape from Tehran.

This is perhaps why five leading figures from the Iranian intelligence agency fled Tehran over the past week. They disappeared, and with them important and top secret documents on Iran's role in international terrorism. Those five used to plan or supervise the implementation of international terrorism operations.

The important sources pointed out that the information provided by the fugitive chief of Iranian intelligence indicates that Iran funded and established 135 terrorist Islamic organizations with a limited number of members, apart from the major organizations such as Hizballah. That is, Iran helped and financed big organizations like Hizballah and Hamas.

In addition to these terrorist Islamic organizations, Iran established 133 small terrorist groups each consisting of between 10 and 25 individuals. These are terrorist Islamic groups spread from the Philippines to Pakistan to Mauritania. The latter has three small groups affiliated with the Iranian intelligence agency. There are also small secret Islamic organizations in every Arab country! Iran continues to give the utmost attention to establishing terrorist Islamic organizations each with no more than 25 members, according to top secret documents Washington has recently received. The documents contain names and sources of finance that come under pseudonyms and from societies that are supposed to be charitable. The secret documents prove that many of the Islamic charitable societies finance Islamic terrorist organizations.

The important sources said that these secret documents on terrorism will not be revealed now. They are being handled with extreme secrecy because some of these terrorist Islamic groups are based in Western countries. So there is a need for extreme caution against any foreign terrorist operations.

Several Western intelligence services are holding extensive contacts to tighten the noose around the Islamic terrorist organizations in Western countries. Under current Western laws, it is difficult to arrest any of those named in the secret documents before they carry out any operations. Thus some Western countries are not waiting for the terrorist actions to happen and are trying to preempt them by enacting new laws, such as the current antiterrorism law in Britain, to confront the danger of terrorism from the Islamic groups that practice terrorism as a tool for achieving terrorist objectives.

In the past few days, Washington obtained hundreds of top secret documents detailing Iran's terrorist activities and the names of new members and new terrorist organizations that were not previously listed in the records of international terrorism. These included the names of people and camps; Sudan's name was mentioned extensively in these documents together with new details of international terrorist actions, some of which were foiled in the past few days.

In addition, Washington also obtained serious documents on Iran's secret nuclear cooperation with various countries, led by Russia and others. These documents reported on secret Iranian-Pakistani contacts on secret nuclear cooperation and the problems that faced some of these contacts. Some of the secret documents also reported on the secret Iranian theft of nuclear material that could easily be used to make a nuclear bomb. Iran imported this nuclear material through a nearby country on the pretext that it would use the "uranium" for medical treatment, but would then chemically process it to create a nuclear bomb.

These top secret documents also gave full and accurate details of Iran's attempt to gain the support of some Islamic countries for Iran's stance through every possible diplomatic and nondiplomatic means.

Some of the documents that vanished along with five Iranian intelligence officers in the past few days also contained the details of important diplomatic sessions with some diplomatic leaders in the Islamic world and Iran's secret plan to break its international isolation using all ways and means, especially through the use of senior businessmen and some international oil companies, to compel them to help the pressure groups demanding Iran's return to the international stage.

These important sources confirmed that Washington obtained all the secret documents on Iran's attempts to break its isolation two months ago. The documents detailed in full all Iran's diplomatic, economic, and secret means of enticement.

These secret Iranian documents together with the flow of other secret official Iranian documents on Iran's continuing international terrorist role were one of the main and decisive reasons behind U.S. President Clinton's decision some days ago to stop the "Conoco" oil company from concluding any deals with the Iranian Government to search and drill for oil. They were also behind the intensive current effort to impose more isolation and sanctions on Iran and its terrorist activities.

Reportage, Views on Kyrgyzstan Delegation's Visit

Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive

LD2504102095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abbas Dzhumagulov, prime minister of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, arrived in Tehran this morning. He was officially welcomed by the First Vice President Hasan Habibi.

Mr. Dzhumagulov is accompanied by a high-ranking politico-economic delegation, comprising the ministers of internal affairs and communications as well as the deputy prime minister of Kyrgyzstan. During this visit, the prime minister of Kyrgyzstan will discuss political and economic cooperation including customs, tourism, agriculture, and communication issues.

After arriving in Tehran the prime minister of Kyrgyzstan expressed satisfaction with the efforts undertaken by the two countries to upgrade the level of ties and to expand cooperation between Iran and Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Habibi, on the issues to be discussed with the prime minister of Kyrgyzstan, said:

[Begin Habibi recording] Iran's foreign policy is to revive relations with these countries, which enjoyed healthy relations with our country in the distant past. We wish to expand our economic, political, and cultural ties. [end recording]

Interior Minister Meets Counterpart

LD2504203895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kyrgyzstan's Internal Affairs Minister Madalbek Moldashev today met Iran's Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati. Speaking about the grounds for friendship and cooperation between the two countries, Mr. Moldashev said: Kyrgyzstan is on the new transit route for drug and arms smuggling. Future generations will appreciate it if we make ourselves duty-bound to deal with drug and arms smuggling as a world problem, and take steps to solve this problem with the cooperation of other countries.

The interior minister of Kyrgyzstan condemned international terrorism and called for an agreement between Iran and Kyrgyzstan to combat drug and arms smuggling, and to struggle against international terrorism.

Mr. Besharati, for his part, said: Our foreign policy is based on mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. Therefore, we are keen to expand political, economic, and cultural cooperation with your country.

Mr. Besharati, speaking about our country's work in the fight against drug smuggling, said: We cooperate with Pakistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan, and we have been successful in fighting drugs. We have received the highest award from the UN for our campaign against drugs.

Mr. Besharati announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to cooperate with Kyrgyzstan in the campaign against drug and arms smuggling.

Prime Minister Meets Rafsanjani

LD2604104895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received the visiting Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Abbas Dzhumagulov. In the course of this meeting, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to the suitable grounds for expansion of cooperation between Iran and Kyrgyzstan, said: In view of the Islamic sentiments of the two countries' people and the possibility of expanding bilateral relations in the political and economic fields, it is necessary to speed up the process of implementing the agreements reached between the two countries.

The president, referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's initiative in holding tripartite meetings with Armenia, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine in Tehran in order to expand trade and technical and economic cooperation with these countries, added: In view of the fact that the railways will link Mashhad and Sarakhs by the end of the current year [20 March 1996], the path can also become smoother for expansion of economic ties between Iran and Kyrgyzstan and other countries of the region by using these railways.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described implementation of the fiber optics project, linking China to Frankfurt via Kyrgyzstan, as highly significant for speeding up establishment of communications among the regional countries. He announced our country's readiness to assist Kyrgyzstan to implement this project.

The president stressed the need for pursuing the past agreements signed between the two countries and expressed the hope that the Kyrgyz prime minister's visit and the talks between the two countries' joint committees would further speed up the expansion of bilateral ties.

According to a report of the Central News Unit, Mr. Abbas Dzhumagulov, in return, briefed the president on the outcome of his visits and fruitful talks in Tehran. He renewed an invitation to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Kyrgyzstan and said: Our people have not forgotten your visit to our country. We believe that your excellency's participation at the Manas Millenium in Kyrgyzstan will bring pride to the people of Kyrgyzstan and other countries of the region.

Prime Minister Views Economic Ties

LD2604092495 Tehran IRNA in English 0806 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—Visiting Kyrgyz Premier Abbas Dzhumagulov and First Vice-President Hasan Habibi stressed promotion of Tehran-Bishkek ties in their first round of talks here Tuesday [25 April] night.

Dzhumagulov who arrived here earlier on the day heading a ranking delegation on a 3-day official visit, said that Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance to its ties with Iran and voiced his country's readiness to bolster Tehran-Bishkek relations.

He said there are broad grounds for investment and activities of the Iranian private sector in Kyrgyzstan in such areas as agriculture, construction, industries, mines and production of foodstuff.

Referring to the age-old ties between the two countries, he called on the Iranian historians, educators, artists and writers to visit cultural centers in his country.

Dzhumagulov also voiced his country's readiness to sell wheat and meat to Iran.

Pointing to the fact that there is no obstacle in the way of promotion of Tehran-Bishkek economic cooperation, Vice-President Habibi said Iran is ready for overall cooperation with Kyrgyzstan.

Habibi urged strengthening of cooperation among countries member in the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) saying that this will ensure social welfare and political stability of the regional nations and enable them to settle the existing crises through peaceful means.

The Central Asian and Caucasian countries can utilize Iran's transportation facilities especially Bandar-e 'Abbas-Bafq-Sarakhs railways and get access to the Persian Gulf waters, he said.

Turning to Iran's achievements in industrial and agricultural fields and campaign against narcotic drugs, Habibi voiced Iran's readiness to put its experience especially in the field of gas and oil exploitation at the disposal of the regional countries.

During the meeting, the two sides agreed on the formation of cooperation committees on law-enforcement, economic, industrial, communication, political, transportation, agriculture and sports affairs.

Ministers of the interior and communications of both the countries were also present during the talks.

Assembly Speaker Meets Majles Leader

LD2604122095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning a meeting took place between Daniyar Usenov, deputy speaker of Kyrgyz Legislative Assembly and Hasan Rowhani, deputy speaker of the Islamic Majles. Rowhani, head of the foreign policy of the Islamic Majles stated: Since the declaration of independence by the Central Asian countries, Iran has rendered considerable efforts in establishing close ties with these countries and in facilitating the countries's ties with other countries. He considered the establishment of peace, security, and stability as the most basic principles of Iran and added: We believe that the growth of the Commonwealth of Independent States would not be possible without peace and security.

Rowhani also emphasised the need for expansion of parliamentary ties through exchanges of parliamentary delegations and formation of parliamentary friendship groups within the two countries' parliaments.

Deputy speaker of Kyrgyz assembly also expressed satisfaction at the ever growing trend in relations between the two countries and considered the opening of Kyrgyz Embassy in Tehran important and effective in increasing relations between the two countries. He also stressed the need for expansion of parliamentary, cultural, economic, and political ties. And in the field of cultural, he called for preparing the necessary ground to enable the people of Kyrgyzstan to make use of the Iranian TV programs in Kyrgyzstan.

Commentary on Visit

NC2604065895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday the Kyrgyz prime minister arrived in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking political and economic delegation. After arriving in Tehran, he described Iranian-Kyrgyz relations as good and expanding, and called for strengthening bilateral political, economic, cultural, and security relations.

Security measures and the prevention of the spread of arms smuggling on Central Asian borders, as well as the prevention of the spread of drugs, are among the topics forming the axis of the talks between the ministers of Iran and Kyrgyzstan.

With the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the independence of the Central Asian republics, all these republics have been facing more or less the same economic and security problems. But what is of special importance is that the problem of all these republics is their serious vulnerability before security and political developments in Russia, and, in particular, the existence of Russian minorities in these republics. Although some of the problems in these regions are not of a security nature, they do have a security impact. The increase in drugs and organized crime, as well as arms smuggling, are among the things that affect regional security.

Political analysts say that because of its geopolitical situation, that is, its location, surrounded by east and west and north and south Asia, Central Asia has always affected the security of the regions around it and has also been affected by developments in the regions around it. Social problems inside the newly independent Central Asian countries—problems such as high prices, poverty, and joblessness—have always resulted in social insecurity. Thus, one of the biggest impacts has been the smuggling of various goods and increased drug production, which have affected the region's social security.

With these social and political insecurities, and despite the considerable security pacts that have been signed within the framework of mutual security cooperation in these countries, no precise security framework for a serious fight against drugs and against the spread of arms smuggling exists in any of these countries. Each of this region's countries is merely striving for bilateral ties with Russia. It seems that the strengthening of security cooperation next to economic and political cooperation and relations are one of the major instruments that can play an effective role in improving Iran's relations with Central Asian countries, namely with Kyrgyzstan. Since development is impossible without security, Central Asia's security issues must be granted priority when the Islamic Republic formulates its foreign policy.

U.S. Oil Company's Letter To Clinton Cited

LD2504201095 Tehran IRNA in English 1925 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, April 25, IRNA—Chairman of the board of directors of a U.S. oil company in a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton has warned that in case of enforcement of the oil embargo against Iran, oil companies will transfer their headquarters from the United States to other countries. He asked Clinton not to be influenced by his pro-Israeli advisers and not to link his fate in the coming presidential elections to their wishes.

In his letter to the U.S. president, a copy of which was sent to the IRNA office in Beirut, the chairman of the Houston-based Coastal Oil Company, warned that in case the White House continued its economic policies against Iran, Clinton would not have any chance in winning the votes of oil companies or companies related to them. He added that if U.S. companies were prevented from exploring oil in Iran, Bill Clinton would be making a great mistake.

"What would follow the ban is that British, French, Italian and Spanish companies (British Petroleum, Royal Dutch, Total and others) will act immediately as they did in Libya, and will help Iran develop its oil wells. This is what happened during the Reagan and Bush administrations resulting in loss of work and trade opportunities for U.S. companies," he cautioned.

"I know that your number one and two men in the National Security Council are pro-Israelies and have convinced you on how to conduct U.S. trade activities in the Middle East particularly against Iran, Iraq and Libya," said the senior oil executive.

In conclusion, he advised Clinton not to rely much on the pro-Israeli pressure group in his administration, for they are not very popular among the voters, and that his chances in the presidential elections will be ruined.

U.S. Oil Firms React to Embargo

LD2604134295 Tehran IRNA in English 1122 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Apr. 26, IRNA—U.S. oil majors are said to be confident that the Clinton administration will allow a period for adjustment for the possible imposition of further economic sanctions against Iran.

Term customers, such as Exxon, Mobil and Caltex, are reported to have already have contingency plans, but according to ENERGY COMPASS there has been no sign of any conclusive talks on deals with other suppliers.

The main perceived danger of a U.S. trade ban extending to U.S. subsidiaries is the damaging implications it holds for removing two more key sour grades, Iranian light and Iranian heavy crudes, from U.S. traders.

Sour crude has already been in short supply in the mediterranean due to the absence of Arab blends, the four year embargo against Iraqi Oil and the uncertain quantities of Russian grades.

London-based ENERGY COMPASS believed that the loss of Iranian crude, especially Iranian heavy, because of any action from the White House would leave the biggest lifter of Iranian oil, Exxon, with a little choice of Middle East crudes for its refining systems in both Europe and the Far East.

It suggested that the U.S. oil major may have to look towards Russian Urals blend to fill any gaping hole blown in its crude procurement schedules by Clinton's sanctions.

In its report, ENERGY COMPASS discounted the reports of recent scaling down of Iranian liftings by U.S. term contracts as being driven by the imminent threat of a ban, saying it was more likely to have been a reaction to Iran's stiff crude pricing.

The primary motive behind the recent burst of Middle East spot buying appeared to be to take advantage of the commercial opportunity for the weakening of Arab prices around two weeks ago, when the Brent Dubai differential began widening.

Turkey Reports Country's Support for Hizballah

NC2604095995 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 20 Apr 95 p A3

[Report by Kemal Balci]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara—The Parliament's Unsolved Political Killings (FMS) Commission draft report argues that Iran supports the terrorist organization the Islamic fundamentalist Hizballah (Party of God), and urged Turkey to take more effective measures to disrupt the support.

The report, issued last week but waiting for the commission members' signatures, says that Hizballah militants had contacts with the Iranian Consulate in Istanbul and were provided military training, money and arms in Iran. It also said that Hizballah militants had kidnapped two members of the People's Fighters Organization (HMO)—which is opposed to the current Iranian regime—and had handed them over to Iranian agents.

"Irfan Cagirici," the report says, "who is the head—Emir—of the Hizballah was reported to have visited Iranian Consulate in Istanbul with Selim Gulcan and have informed Consul General Mohammad Tahari about their organization and its activities. It was also reported that they had asked for financial help. "The Consul General was reported to have said that he would respond to their request later. After a month and a half, when Irfan Cagirici went to the consulate again, the consul had asked him to go to Iran to meet Ahmad Sajoy, whose address and telephone number was provided by the consul himself. Irfan Cagirici and Selim Gulcan passed into Iran through Dogu Beyazit on March 1, 1984. After they contacted Ahmad Sajoy, they were given military training and later they were helped across the Turkish frontier by the Islamic Revolution Guards," the report continues.

The report says that Ahmad Sajoy later entered Turkey on May, 1984 and again contacted these two militants.

"The two militants again visited the consulate in Istanbul and this time met with Mohammad Tahari and Ahmad Sajoy." Ahmat Sajoy was reported to have given TL 400,000 to these militants and promised TL 600,000 and arms in the near future. However, when three months passed and the promise was not kept, Irfan Cagirici and Metin Torun went to Iran and contacted Ahmad Sajoy again in Iran. They were given military training once again and on their return to Turkey they were provided arms and the money they were promised.

The report says that many members of Hizballah were captured by the police, and the organization was scattered. However, they had tried to regroup again, and Irfan Cagirici renewed his contact with Iran, according to the report.

"This time the organization acted under the leadership of an organization in Iran," the report says. "It is understood from the evidence that the organization was educated by a professional intelligence service. However our Commission did not find out whether the foundation in Iran that orders the organization had any relations with the Iranian state. But it is quite clear that in the totalitarian Iranian regime, individuals or organizations cannot be independent of the state."

Military Training in Iran [subhead]

The commission's report also discussed information obtained in the cross-examination of 19 Hizballah militants caught by the Istanbul Police Force on Jan. 23, 1993.

"One of those defendants, Mehmet Kaya, said that when he had gone with his friend Tevfik Durmaz to the Iranian city of Maku with the guidance of Ekrem Baytap for the first time in 1986, they were informed about Islamic issues and about the Islamic state structure. Then, he said, they went to city of Kum," says the report.

The report also names Mehmet Ali Seker as a Hizballah militant. He was sent to Iran and given military training there. He reportedly met with the members of the HIZBUL-DAVA [Hizballah-Cause], an Islamic terrorist organization, in Iran and in Syria. The report said that in 1989 he was sent to Iran where he was taken to a military facility called PEDGON and taught the production of bombs and also how to explode TNT and C-4 bombs. It also says that the education had lasted for 45-50 days and later Seker had returned to Istanbul.

How the People's Fighters Were Killed [subhead]

The report also details the killing of the two HMO members. "In his interrogation, Mehmet Zeki Yildirim said that he was sent to Iran where he was picked up by a person called Mahmud, one of the murderers of 'Ali Akbar Qorbani, a member of HMO, who was killed in Istanbul's Yalova. He reportedly said that he and some others who came with him were taken somewhere in Tehran and were given a military education," the report says.

Mehmet Ali Bilici, alias Abdullah Yigit, reportedly said that with the help of a person in Iran's Culture House in Ankara named Davud people were sent to Iran for training.

According to the report, Hizballah militants had also kidnapped one of the Shah's supporters, 'Abbas Gholizadeh, in return for TL 500 million from the Iranians. Gholizadeh was later handed over to Iranians residing in a house in Bursa's Gemlik township. The report also says that in Istanbul some militants planted bombs in the cars of two Iranians who oppose the regime in Iran.

In addition, the report argues that between 400 and 500 children ages 14 to 15 had been taken to Iran from the Southeast and placed in military camps. The report argues that if Turkey does not take the necessary measures these children will turn into enemies of Turkey.

Effect of Hizballah Attack on Israel Considered

NC2604061395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a fresh martyrdom attempt, Lebanon's Islamic Resistance combatants in south Lebanon attacked a column of Zionist military vehicles in the occupied areas and killed or wounded 30 occupiers.

Political analysts believe that intensifying successful anti-Zionist operations by the Islamic Resistance in south Lebanon have placed Israel in a deadlock and upset this aggressive regime's plans. Thirteen years ago, after aggressing Lebanon and then retreating from major areas under the people's extensive pressure, the Zionist regime thought it was taking a new initiative by turning part of south Lebanon into a security belt and handing over the management of this area to a group of dependent hirelings. The regime occupying Jerusalem implemented the security belt plan with the objective of decreasing anti-Israeli operations from south Lebanon and reducing the casualties suffered by this regime in such attacks to the minimum.

But with the emergence of Islamic groups in Lebanon, Tel Aviv's strategy failed. With their continuous and persistent operations, Lebanese Muslim combatants armed with the weapons of faith and martyrdom forced the usurping enemy in the occupied territories of Lebanon to replace its hirelings. The rise in the quantity and quality of anti-Zionist operations in south Lebanon and the rise in the number of casualties among the Zionist military weakened the Zionist regime's most important objectives in creating a security belt.

A buffer zone has failed to prevent a direct confrontation between Muslim combatants and the Zionist military. As a result, the qualitative and quantitative increase in anti-Zionist operations is leading to more casualties among the Israeli military.

Under these new conditions, Tel Aviv is facing an unprecedented bottleneck; it has lost the initiative. If it sends more forces to the region or if it resorts to a new occupation, it will be making its forces more vulnerable. And if it retreats from this area, its security on the northern border will become extremely vulnerable.

*Human Rights Commission Chairman Interviewed

95LA0156A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
5 Feb 95 p 46

[Interview with Menoshahr Janji, chairman of the Human Rights Defense Commission, in Paris; date not given: "Menoshahr Janji to AL-MAJALLAH: 17 Telephone Lines in West at Disposal of Iranian migrs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Menoshahr Janji is the last Iranian diplomat from the prerevolution era to be still engaged in political opposition activities. Menoshahr, along with former Iranian President Abol Hasan Bani Sadr, is one of the most prominent Iranian opposition figures who have not been silenced. Janji has been living in Paris since 1986 and managing the Iranian Human Rights Commission, relying in this regard on a 30-year experience in the field of defending human rights.

[AL-MAJALLAH] When was this association founded, and why did it take Paris as its headquarters?

[Janji] When the Iranian revolution erupted, I was working specifically in the field of human rights at the United Nations in the United States. This is why I hastened to contact a number of U.S. and European figures working in this field and discussed with them the idea of forming an international commission to defend human rights in Iran. A commission was formed in 1982, and I decided to devote all my time and effort to it. I started working day and night to watch the developments in Iran closely. We then formed numerous cells belonging to this commission. In Iran, our supporters supply us with news, reports, and details of the current developments there, thus giving us the ability to draw up a picture of the condition of human rights in Iran today. Externally, the commission has numerous branches in Europe and the United States. We have opened 17 telephone lines in major Western cities, and we have placed these lines at the disposal of Iranian migrs so we can supply them with information on what goes on in their country and so they will help us gather the information that they receive. Whenever an Iranian is able to depart [Iran], we contact him to gather information from him on the human rights situation, on prisoners' conditions, and so forth. At the same time, we issue a semimonthly publication concerned with human rights in Iran. It is distributed to expatriate Iranians, Western media, international human rights commissions, UN bodies, and European and U.S. parliamentary bodies. We defend human rights inside and outside Iran because numerous Iranian figures, including myself, are threatened with assassination.

[AL-MAJALLAH] In 1986, you left the United States for France, where you live now. Does this mean that France is the most suitable Western country for engaging in activity like yours?

France for Stability

[Janji] In 1986, I chose to settle in France and to take Paris as the headquarters of our organization's activity because we, as expatriates, view the United States as too far from Iran. It is difficult to follow up on what goes in Iran from the other side of the ocean. Europe is close to our country, and it contains numerous international organizations and bodies. Therefore, it is an appropriate place for engaging in the required humanitarian activity. For a long time, Asian and African opposition movements have preferred to be present on European soil.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you have contacts with the Iranian regime or with its representatives abroad?

[Janji] We have no contacts with the Iranian regime or with its representatives. This does not mean that we reject dialogue. The Iranian regime seeks to liquidate us as foes. We fear that if we contact this regime, it will exploit the opportunity to assassinate us. If the Iranian authorities display goodwill toward dialogue and negotiation, then we are prepared for them.

[AL-MAJALLAH] As a lawman and as a former international expert in human rights affairs, in the general sense of the phrase, what are the accusations that can be addressed to Iran nowadays in connection with this issue?

[Janji] Our primary objection focuses on the form and content of the constitution itself. Iran's constitution restricts numerous human rights, whether pertaining to individual or political liberties. It also restricts the right to self-defense before the judiciary, as it restricts the legal guarantees of any individual faced with a charge. The other objection concerns legitimacy of the regime itself and the people's sovereignty and their right to select their representatives freely. The constitution not only curtails individual freedom but also fails to give the people their sovereignty. Parliamentary elections, for example, are not democratic because the freedom to run as a candidate for election is not guaranteed. A 12-member national committee, called the Constitution Preservation Committee, nominates all candidates to run for election. It has the right to veto any candidate, meaning that parliament members are appointed by the committee and not elected by the people. We also demand abolition of the revolutionary courts that have been in existence for 16 years. There are, moreover, a number of accusations connected with unjustifiable imprisonment and torture and with coercing people to confess to whatever charges the public prosecution attributes to them. These and other similar practices constitute an explicit violation of the individual's and the citizen's rights.

Limited Interest

[AL-MAJALLAH] Despite all kinds of hostility between Iran and the West, we find that most Western countries have normal relations with Iran. Does this mean that the human rights issue, at least in the third world, has turned into an issue to which the West pays limited attention only?

[Janji] In the West, two things must be separated: public opinion and state policy, considering that there are moral and cultural values that Western peoples espouse and there are state interests, policies, and methods of dealing with the developments. In my opinion, peoples generally understand the issue of human rights in the third world, and they are eager to defend them, thanks to nongovernmental humanitarian organizations such as Amnesty International, the Red Cross Organization, the Middle East Watch, and others. Whenever these organizations are able to reflect a clear picture of poor human rights conditions in an African or Asian country, the Western peoples interact with the situation and pressure their governments to exert efforts to change these conditions. On the other hand, Western governments do not hesitate to ignore human rights completely, preferring to defend their commercial interests and to make economic gains. What I mean is that money governs the policies of numerous Western countries with the developing countries, without regard for any other consideration. Consequently, nearly all Western governments, led by Germany, Japan, and Italy, maintain good relations with Tehran. Even the United States, which has no diplomatic relations with Iran, defends its trade interests in Iran through go-betweens.

Ministry Urged To Discuss Closure of Daily

95LA0195A Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 Feb 95 p 3

[Commentary by Kasra Nuri-Shemirani]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The One-Sided Flow of Information**

In the past few days, JAHAN-E ESLAM's permit was reported to have been revoked. At this time, we do not intend to analyze whether or not the revocation of this license is correct or incorrect because we have no clear information about this newspaper's violations regarding the press law (even though the present press law has shortcomings due to generalizations and the lack of clarity of many of the articles). Rather, the objective is to contemplate the method of explanation by the related officials regarding this news item.

After the announcement of JAHAN-E ESLAM's banning, it was natural for other press and correspondents, based on their professional duty, to investigate the reasons behind the decision of the press supervisory committee. For this reason, the first authority that could be contacted was the press deputy minister of Islamic culture and guidance. Most surprisingly, however, the honorable press deputy minister of guidance announced that he would only give an interview to IRNA in this regard, and the press could use the telex of this news agency (even though the official and trusted news agency of the country's officials published the news of the paper's banning after a delay of several days).

Now, we ask the honorable press deputy minister of guidance, is this not a one-sided flow of information, and, for that matter, by a domestic news agency of a country to the press of the same country? Should the press not ask different questions in this connection, independently or at least in the course of a press conference from the press deputy minister of guidance? Indeed, what is the meaning of such behavior by the press deputy minister of the Ministry of Guidance, who is himself in charge of attending to the affairs of the national press? By such an action, can we allow ourselves to protest the one-sided flow of information in the world and complain about why the Western media reports whatever they want to the Third World countries? We ask the deputy minister of guidance: Indeed, what is the place of the press in the country? Of course, we have no desire and are not able to act like the Western media, but what is the justification of such an action by you, you who are so unkind to the press, let alone a ministry that is a stranger to the press and looks upon it as bothersome people with undue expectations. Should the officials not follow the statements of the honorable president regarding the press and provide them with the necessary information to present to the society and enlighten the public? Does this not result in identical press reports, which according to the social communication researchers of the country is the main reason for the lack of interest of the people in reading the press (even though the press has other weaknesses as well)?

If every paper publishes a story the way that some of the officials wish, then under these dire economic conditions for the press—during which each is trying not to drown in the whirlpool of bankruptcy—what need is there for multiple publications? Just so that later we can declare proudly that 600 publications are published in the country? Of course there is no doubt that presently the national press, considering a history of 150 years of the press and publication of the newspapers in the country, in many respects (except for the economic condition), is in a more desirable situation. This, of course, is owed to a revolution that is rooted in the blood of thousands of martyrs who sacrificed their lives sincerely for our beloved country.

Let us at least not escalate the one-sided flow of information and news in our country.

In short, what has been said is not a complaint based on grudges, but opening our heart to an authority to whom the press must turn, who cannot reject the press, because the sanctity of a holy shrine is only protected by its custodian.

Pakistan

Leghari Urges Action After Bhutto's U.S. Trip

BK2604093795 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 26 Apr 95 pp 1, 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad: Considering the outcome of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States as a turning point in the Pak-US relations, President Farooq Leghari has convened a high level meeting on coming Saturday (April 29) to quicken the follow up process of the visit.

There will be only five principle participants of the meeting, which be held at Aiwan-e-Sadr [President's House], to discuss ways and means for implementing the decisions arrived at the Pak-US bilateral talks held during Ms Bhutto's visit to Washington. The participants include Prime Minister Bhutto, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Shaikh and Ambassador Dr Maleeha Lodhi. Some other officials may attend the meeting for a brief period of time.

Confirming this, official sources told THE NEWS that "this is for the first time that a meeting at such a level is convened so that there should be no lapse on the part of officials in the follow up actions."

The Prime Minister had already briefed the President and Army Chief General Abdul Waheed on her visit to the United States, which included her meeting with President Clinton, a visit to Pentagon and a number of meetings with US leaders and Congressmen.

The discussion, according to official sources, will take place on three broad-based issues: the Pressler Law and its possible amendment in the wake of President Clinton's assurance that "first of all, I intend to ask Congress to show some flexibility on the Pressler Amendment so that we can have some economic and military cooperation and secondly, I intend to consult with them about what we ought to do about the airplane sale"; strengthening of economic ties between the two nations; and to resolve Kashmir issue for which the US President said, "We want to do whatever the US can do to help resolve these matters because so much else depends on it, as we have already seen."

Official sources say that the country's leadership is inclined to move rapidly for bringing on track Pak-US relations, for which every possible step would be taken to strengthen these ties, without compromising on national security matters.

"We have a tough task ahead, but I hope that this single visit of the Premier to the United States will prove a turning point in the history of the two nations," commented official sources.

All the invitees to the Aiwan-e-Sadr consultations have been asked to be present in the meeting, without fail. Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Shaikh, who on Tuesday left for New Delhi to participate in the official level pre-SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit meetings, will be back in the town by April 29 to ensure his presence in the meeting.

Surprisingly, both the Foreign Minister and Foreign Secretary were not present in the capital for last several days. Asif had spent seven days in his home town after getting leave and returned to his official business on Tuesday. Similarly, Najmuddin Shaikh, following the premier's visit to the US went to Chicago and then Paris in connection with meeting his relatives. "Both the President and the Prime Minister do not like such a situation in the Foreign Office at a time when there should have been speedy follow up actions on the part of the Minister and the Secretary."

In his absence, Additional Secretary Zahid Saeed had briefed the Formation Commanders last week on the foreign policy of the government. The military commanders were not fully satisfied with that briefing. However, the Prime Minister had addressed the military commanders for taking them in confidence and unfolding the "non-publicised" details of her US visit.

The importance of the Aiwan-e-Sadr consultations on Pak-US matters can be gauged from the fact that Ambassador Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, who was scheduled to return to Washington on Wednesday, has been asked to stay until the meeting.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Concludes Visit

Joint Communique Issued

BK2604010895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and Bangladesh have called for all-out efforts to remove poverty in the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] region by the year 2002. This has been stated in a joint communique issued in Islamabad today at the end of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh's visit as chairperson of the SAARC to Pakistan. It said that the declaration on poverty alleviation adopted by the SAARC at Dhaka should be kept high on the SAARC summit agenda. The communique says the two leaders noted with satisfaction trade liberalization in the region under the Preferential Trading Arrangement. They expressed the hope that the Preferential Trading Arrangement agreement would be operational well in time. The two sides discussed fresh proposals made by Bangladesh in regard to cooperation in energy sector and in curbing trafficking of women and children and combating discriminatory treatment of immigrant labor from the region. The two sides agreed that if adopted, these proposals would accelerate the pace of regional cooperation. While discussing the role of SAARC secretariat, the two leaders called for adjustments in the working and structure of the secretariat. The Bangladesh prime minister expressed her thanks to Pakistani leaders for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to her and her entourage during her two-day visit to the brotherly country.

Departs for Home

BK2604005795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh left Islamabad this evening after her two-day official visit to Pakistan. She was seen off by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The speaker of the National Assembly, some federal ministers, and diplomats were also present at the airport to bid farewell to her.

Editorial Rejects Proposal for 'Sovereign' Kashmir

BK2604024595 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 25 Apr 95 p 4

[Editorial: "A Sovereign Kashmir Contradicts the National Stand"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference [APHC] has established contact with the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] leadership to seek Pakistani Government support for a "sovereign" Kashmir. According to sources, the PPP leadership has not given any clear or categorical reply to APHC leaders on the proposal. The PPP has decided to take the People's Democratic Front and opposition parties into its confidence in this regard so that a policy can emerge from national consensus on the issue. So far as the option of a "sovereign Kashmir" is concerned, no patriotic Pakistani or Kashmiri can ever accept it.

Despite its 600,000 troops and incalculable oppression and violence, India failed to curb the Kashmiri struggle for freedom and has lost control of the situation. The thing which once used to be only whispered is now being said openly, and there are those who are saying this has received the blessings of the United States and India as well. It was reported only a few days ago that envoys of the United States and other European countries were holding secret talks with APHC leaders and they were being persuaded to accept the third option on Kashmir. Among the nearly 36 APHC parties, there are those which do not represent the Kashmiris nor do they enjoy the support of the people of Kashmir. India is wooing them, however, and trying to align them with it.

The Indian leadership had already been supporting the idea of a sovereign Kashmir which would thus bring an end to the freedom struggle which India's war machinery failed to suppress. The United States also wants a sovereign Kashmir, which will provide the United States a permanent base against China. Any compulsion [majburi] of our government on the Kashmir issue might prove deadly poisonous to our own security. If a sovereign Kashmir emerges, then not only the Kashmiris will have to accept India's permanent slavery but Pakistan will have to relinquish its northern region and the Indian border will touch (?the mouth of) the Grand Trunk Road.

Obviously, such a situation would be unacceptable to any Pakistani. Our politicians should act wisely. Although Sardar Qayyum Khan, the prime minister of Azad Kashmir, supports the slogan of Kashmir Will Become Pakistan, he once displayed some weakness. He is reported to have once expressed his eagerness for the third option, and have said that it could be considered. Sardar Qayyum knows, however, and the whole world knows that through the third option will emerge not a "sovereign" Kashmir but a maimed Kashmir whose existence will depend on the mercy of the United States and India. A sovereign Kashmir will, in fact, turn Pakistan into a target for a direct hit.

If the APHC leaders have established contacts with the PPP leadership as reported, then it is very serious. It is our duty to ensure that Kashmiris are given the right to self-determination. No proposal of a third option should be entertained in place of fulfilling the pledge made to Kashmiris. Our national position is that a solution to Kashmir should be sought under the formula of the partition of India and by granting the Kashmiris their right to self-determination. This was agreed to by both Pakistan and India at the United Nations. Although the United Nations has been hijacked by the United States, and under the new world order a free Kashmir is in the interest of India and the United States, that freedom will be only a hoax. Undoubtedly, accepting the third option would be nothing but surrendering ourselves to India.

Since the establishment of Pakistan, a national consensus has developed that Kashmir will become Pakistan. If an attempt is made to create a consensus deviating from the one already achieved, it will not be a decision of the Pakistani nation nor the Kashmiris. The government must keep this in mind while considering Kashmir *policy. India would be interested in solving the issue this way, as under these circumstances it would not be losing Kashmir. What reason would we have to support this, and how could we be compelled to do so? We hope that the government will clarify the policy in this regard and reaffirm that our national policy is the one based on the formula of the partition of India.

National Lobby on Kashmir Launched in London

BK2604085195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A national lobby on Kashmir has been launched in London as a standing body to create awareness about the Kashmir issue among the British people and seek wider support across the country for its resolution. A member of the British parliament, Mr. George Galloway, who is also the spokesman of the lobby, told newsmen in London yesterday that the lobby has support of several members of the British Parliament. He said the British Government has a historic special responsibility to resolve the Kashmir issue. Mr. Galloway regretted human violations in occupied Kashmir which has been transformed into a hell. The human rights violations must stop and people in the occupied Kashmir be given their right of self-determination, he added.

Sri Lanka

Continued Reportage of Breakdown With Rebels

President: Peace Process Will Continue

BK2504131695 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga has assured that the peace process will be continued. However, she emphasized that she will not betray the country's security forces. She expressed this view when she visited the Army Hospital in Colombo yesterday and inquired into the welfare of the security officers injured in the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attacks. She instructed the authorities concerned to pay special attention to their treatment.

Police Commandos Mount Offensive

BK2504045695 Hong Kong AFP in English 0445 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, April 25 (AFP)—Elite police commandos Tuesday [25 April] mounted a search and destroy operation against Tamil Tiger guerrillas in eastern Sri Lanka as sporadic fighting was reported elsewhere, officials said.

Special Task Force (STF) commandos moved into the Kangikudichchiaru jungles in the Ampara district looking for guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a military official here said.

He said the offensive came as security forces in the adjoining Batticaloa district beat off a pre-dawn assault by about 30 to 40 Tigers against an army camp in Ambalthurai village.

In another clash in the island's northern Vavuniya region, troops ambushed a group of LTTE men, killing one and recovering a T-56 automatic rifle and three grenades, the official said. There were no reports of army casualties.

The killing took the death toll to 71 in the latest round of fighting which erupted after the LTTE pulled out of a truce Wednesday [19 April] and began attacking security forces in the Tamil-dominated northern and eastern regions.

The Tigers are leading a guerrilla campaign to establish an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority of two million, and more than 30,000 people have been killed during their 23-year-old struggle.

Attacks on LTTE Positions Continue

BK2604070295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0622 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, April 26 (AFP)—Elite police commandos Wednesday [26 April] pursued a search-and-destroy mission against Tamil rebels in eastern Sri Lanka amid sporadic clashes elsewhere in the embattled region, officials said.

For the second straight day, crack Special Task Force (STF) police commandos kept up attacks on positions of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the coastal district of Ampara, officials said.

However, details of the STF operation codenamed "Randiya" or Golden Waters, were not immediately available.

As the police strike continued, LTTE guerrillas wounded three policemen in a [words indistinct] elsewhere in the region, officials said.

Sporadic clashes were also reported from various areas in the war-torn north, where large parts are under LTTE control, officials said, adding there were no casualties to government troops in the fresh fighting.

Meanwhile, LTTE-backed newspapers in the north alleged that the air force carried out attacks in northern Mannar Monday, killing at least six civilians, including three children. The military has denied the charges.

The renewed violence in the embattled northeast followed the collapse of a three-month-old truce a week earlier when the LTTE blew up two navy vessels, killing 12 sailors.

Since then, at least 46 security personnel and some 20 LTTE rebels have been killed. Two civilians have also been killed.

The LTTE, which is fighting for a separate state in the northeast for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils, also announced it was withdrawing from peace talks because the government had failed to meet key rebel demands.

More than 30,000 have died in the protracted ethnic conflict that has raged for the past two decades.

Rebels Blamed for Disrupting Talks

BK2604144295 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has today divulged its sincere efforts taken to resolve the northeast conflict. A government communique states that a course of action has already been taken to ease the physical hardships suffered by the Tamil community suffered in the Jaffna peninsula. The PA [People's Alliance] administration has repeatedly called upon the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to commence talks regarding a political solution to the ethnic crisis, but the LTTE kept insisting upon the government meeting their demands touching military and civilian aspects which had no direct bearing on the central issues of the political resolution of Tamil grievances. Measures have been taken to lift the embargo on transport of consumer items and on fishing. The authorities have put forward an advance reconstruction plan in the North and supplied urgently needed food, medical supplies, and fuel to the war torn areas. In spite of these goodwill gestures, the Association of Sri Lankan Expatriates, who constitute the Eelam [Tamil homeland] lobby in countries like the United States, Canada, Britain and Australia, have already lauded the decision to break the cessation of hostilities agreement.

The LTTE has deviated from the peace process aimed at resolving the Tamil problem. The government says the LTTE sympathizers attempt to portray the disruption of peace process as being the consequence of the government's disinclination to alleviate the physical hardship of Tamil people of Jaffna is a gross distortion of facts. The government remains committed to the peace process and it has been acknowledged both nationally and internationally. The government calls upon the entire Tamil community of Sri Lanka to join hands with it and the other communities living in the island regardless of the attempts of any vested interests to reflect the peace process for their own ends.

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